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Likud reels from Meridor departure

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

The Likud's central committee is to convene on Sunday to set the date for the election of a leader and Knesset candidates, amid a feeling of an "earthquake" in the party.

MK Dan Meridor's announcement yesterday that he was quitting the Likud and contending for prime minister at the head of a new party sent shock waves through the Likud.

Elections '99

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said the Likud had received a "fatal blow" and was "in one of its most difficult hours."

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Others in the party said that Meridor's move, which followed MK Ze'ev Binyamin Begin's decision to quit, meant the party was falling apart.

Meridor and Begin were among the Likud's "princes," second generation to the movement's founding fathers and flesh of its flesh.

They were the last in a line of MKs and ministers who have despaired of Netanyahu and quit the Likud over the past two and half years, including David Levy, David Magen and Ronni Milo.

In unprecedentedly harsh words, the usually soft spoken Meridor blasted Netanyahu for corrupting the moral norms in Israel and said today's leadership is unworthy of leading the nation and brings it shame.

"Cynicism and manipulation have taken over our public life, accompanied by an unexplained smugness," Meridor said. "Lies have turned into a part of our life. Breaking promises is the norm. The rule of law has become a target of contempt and slander."

Meridor served as cabinet secretary in Menachem Begin's government, justice minister in Yitzhak Shamir's cabinet and finance minister in Netanyahu's cabinet until he resigned a year and a half ago.

Explaining why he doesn't contend for leadership within the Likud, Meridor said "I haven't left until now, because I wanted to fight within the party. But none of my colleagues would join me. The situation was that a man who came to Israel 10 years ago [Netanyahu] took over the party – albeit democratically – and is preventing the possibility of replacing him. I've reached the conclusion that there is no chance to replace Netanyahu in the Likud. But the state must replace Netanyahu."

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Dan Meridor announces he will form a new party and run for prime minister in the next elections in a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday. (Reuters)

Meridor's exit

ANALYSIS

By AMIR A. MELLER

For many years, people asked what someone like Dan Meridor was doing in the Likud Party. Yesterday, Meridor finally acknowledged that he has no good answer, so he left.

Neither the question nor the answer is about policy differences – Meridor had no trouble living with Menachem Begin's dead-end in Lebanon, Yitzhak Shamir's do-nothing term of office, or even Binyamin Netanyahu's directionless platform in 1996.

Instead, it is about political culture. As a scion of one of the fabled "fighting families," Meridor has as fine a revisionist pedigree as one could imagine, and his views are still not that far removed from classic revisionist doctrine.

His problem is that he is polite, soft-spoken, tolerant of others, and convinced that the word "integrity" still means something, all traits that alienated him from the cynicism, demagogy, thuggery and contempt for the rule of law that have increasingly characterized the party since it was taken over by Netanyahu and his henchmen after 1992.

Meridor's decision, along with the defections or anticipated challenges by several other Likud ministers, is being interpreted as a symptom of the overall fragmentation of the political system, the result of broad social trends reinforced by the effects of the ersatz electoral reform permitting direct election of the prime minister.

There is, no doubt, some truth to this argument, and if the tendency toward larger and larger numbers of smaller and smaller parties continues, the political system will almost certainly face the kind of paralysis that puts democracy itself at risk. Without real electoral reform, Israel will soon look like France under the Fourth Republic or Russia today.

But even if the structural factor is taken into account, there remains the specific contribution of Netanyahu himself. The man who is credited with rehabilitating the Likud after its defeat in 1992 has managed to alienate virtually all his other former patrons, colleagues and associates, not because of policy differences, but because of the same character defects that drove Meridor (and Shamir and David Levy) away.

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8 Lebanese civilians killed in IAF raid

Northern residents spend night in shelters

By DAVID RUDGE

Residents of northern border towns and villages were instructed to stay in bomb shelters last night in expectation of Hizbullah Katyusha rocket attacks in retaliation for the accidental killing of six Lebanese children, their mother and another adult in an IAF raid yesterday.

The 40-year-old woman and six of her children, aged between one and 16, were among the fatalities of the air strike, for which the IDF expressed sincere regrets.

The woman's husband, Mohammed Osman Ayoub, and one of their sons reportedly were badly injured when a bomb dropped by an IAF warplane struck their farmhouse near Janta village in the Syrian-controlled part of Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

Another person was reported to have been killed and two more wounded in the air raid, which was supposed to have targeted Hizbullah's Voice of the Oppressed radio station and one of the organization's training bases.

It was not immediately clear whether the other person killed and the two others wounded were civilians or Hizbullah activists.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said last night that Israel had relayed messages, through "appropriate channels" to Syria and Lebanon to express regrets.

"We certainly do not have any intention to hit civilians," Mordechai said in an interview on Channel 2 last night.

"At the same time, I warn Hizbullah and all those behind it, not to disrupt life in the North because we will take all necessary measures," he added.

Hizbullah made clear in statements issued on its Manar television station that it would avenge what it described as the "massacre" of innocent civilians – the only questions were when and how.

The station broadcast pictures of the victims, particularly the bodies of the mother and her children, and showed the wounded being treated and taken to the hospital.

"Israel will pay dearly for its crimes. The Zionist enemy has again perpetrated another horrendous massacre joining with others already committed like the one at Kafr Kana," Hizbullah said in an official statement.

Hizbullah called on the Lebanese government to press for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to denounce Israel for the attack which it described as a "blatant breach of the [Grapes of Wrath] understandings."

Lebanese analysts said it was possible that the organization would wait a while to draw maximum publicity and propaganda from the deaths of the civilians before launching its revenge attacks.

Another Lebanese television station quoted a source from the Islamic Resistance, Hizbullah's fighting arm, as saying that the organization "reserved the right to retaliate at the appropriate time and place."

The IDF instructed public bomb shelters in Kiryat Shmona, Nahariya and other towns and villages along the northern border to be opened and for residents to go into them. OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi was in close contact with council heads throughout the "confrontation line" region and appraised them of the situation and Hizbullah's likely reaction.

Kiryat Shmona residents took blankets, food and drinks down with them into the shelters, as well as games to keep their children occupied until they fell asleep.

There were reports that some families decided to head South and spend the night and perhaps subsequent ones at the homes of friends and relatives outside the range of Hizbullah's Katyusha rockets.

The tension along the northern border followed what the IDF Spokesman described as a breakdown during the air strike on Hizbullah targets.

The attack itself occurred in the afternoon near Janta village, south of Ba'albek, deep in the northern part of Lebanon's Bekaa Valley which is controlled by Syrian army troops.

The IDF Spokesman issued a statement expressing regrets over the loss of life and stressing that the civilian casualties had been unintentional.

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Two girls from Kiryat Shmona, and their dolls, prepare to spend the night in a bomb shelter yesterday evening. (Avihu Shapira/Israel Sun)

Palestinians expect surge in street protests

By BEN LYNFIELD

Palestinian leaders yesterday painted a bleak picture of political stalemate and violent confrontations during the run-up to elections.

In the corridors of the Palestinian Legislative Council, which met yesterday in Ramallah, there was general concern that the campaign will bring a further expansion of settlements, unchallenged by the international community, while at the same time the Wye agreement withers.

"The elections will be used by the Israelis as an excuse to avoid fulfilling their agreements," said Dalal Salameh, a Fatah representative from Balata refugee camp, near Nablus.

"If anything is asked of the Israelis during this period, they will say we can't do anything because we are waiting for the new government," added Musa Zaabout, a Hamas supporter from Gaza City.

The only consolation, for some legislators, is that Labor might win. That development, they believe, could resuscitate the peace process. But not before things get worse.

Marwan Barghouti, the secretary-general of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement in the West Bank, said the stalemate expected during the campaign increases the chances of a surge in street protests.

"During the next weeks there are still many reasons [for protests], and the decision by Netanyahu on elections will push things to a further deterioration because there is no hope," said Barghouti, who represents the Ramallah district in the legislative council.

From discussions with Barghouti and other legislators four key factors – that predate the calling of elections – emerge as triggers for unrest: the expansion of settlements, confiscation of land for bypass roads, the non-release of political prisoners despite the hopes of the Palestinian public, and a depressed economy.

"We are clearly against terrorist attacks in Israel and I think we have succeeded in stopping them," said Barghouti. "But in the occupied territories we have the right to resist the settlements and the Israeli policy in general."

Asked whether this meant more street protests, Barghouti responded: "Of course, we have to do our job."

Unsurprisingly, most legislators are hoping for a victory by Ehud Barak and the Labor Party.

"Definitely a Labor government would be less evil," said Salah Tamari, a legislator from the Bethlehem district. "They declare their commitment to the peace process and the Wye agreement, they are not against the creation of a Palestinian state and they have declared a freeze on settlements," he said.

Hossam Khader, a legislator from the Balata refugee camp, took a different view. "Even if the Labor Party wins, they will add nothing to the peace process," he said. In Khader's view, there is a danger that Hamas will try to disrupt the campaign, as it did in 1996, by attempting to bomb Israeli targets. "I am afraid Hamas will appear again on the political stage," he said.

Ministry recommends age limits for IVF

By JUDY SIEGEL

Infertile women over 45 would not be able to undergo in-vitro fertilization of their own ova; women over 51 would not be given ova donations; and those of all ages would be sent for a second medical opinion after two unsuccessful courses of IVF on whether further treatments have a chance of being successful. These are the recommendations of the four gynecologist members of a 10-physician panel appointed by the Health Ministry to set professional criteria for IVF in Israel.

Prof. Joseph Schenker, outgoing president of the Israel Society for Obstetrics and Gynecology, said at an unpublicized meeting of the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women on Monday that the gynecologists' recommendations are likely to be approved by the full committee (which convenes on Sunday) and then by Health Minister Yehoshua Matza.

During the past year, all the health funds – especially Maccabi – have limited the number of infertile women for whom they were willing to provide IVF due to their growing deficits and the increased costs of the treatment, which runs into tens of thousands of shekels per cycle. This, despite the fact that the basket of health services includes IVF treatment to produce their first two children.

Matza said recently that in principle the health funds wouldn't be allowed to refuse to meet this obligation to their members, but he established the special committee to set down "medical principles" for the treatment, which will, in effect, limit the extent of care among infertile couples.

Schenker said that currently, some 14,000 treatment cycles are performed each year on 2,000 to 3,000 women. The number of per-capita cycles is 10 times as much here as in the US, while Israel has four times as many IVF centers per population than in that country.

The proposed regulations will reduce the number of cycles "immediately by about 20%," he suggested. "It will provide more supervision and make IVF much more efficient, because money for treatments given to women with no chance of success will be diverted to women with more hope of conceiving and giving birth."

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See Page 18 For Local & International Weather

NEWS
in brief

Weizman fears for peace process

President Ezer Weizman yesterday expressed misgivings over reports that the peace process would be frozen because of the upcoming elections. "I hope the elections will not have [such] an effect," he said. "There is no connection between the election process and the peace process." But Weizman told reporters he had no intention of trying to influence Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on this score. "I tried so many times over the past two-and-a-half years to give him advice. There's so point in my doing so now," he said. *Batsheva Tsur*

Sharon says Palestinians want 1947 borders

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon added his voice yesterday to those calling for the creation of a national unity government. "If we do not go ahead together at these critical moments, we will all be losers," said Sharon, speaking at the dedication ceremony for the Kesem interchange. Sharon warned against being pulled into an energy-consuming election campaign when many "more important" matters remained unresolved. "They [the Palestinians] are demanding that we return to UN resolution 181 (the 1947 UN partition of Palestine) which means that even this junction would be in their hands," said Sharon. *Danna Harman*

Mordechai says he will announce his plans soon

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai told reporters yesterday that he planned to make a public announcement about his future after the situation becomes clearer. "I will decide what steps to take and announce them clearly," he said after visiting Central Command headquarters. Relating to the escalation of violence in Judea and Samaria, Mordechai said he plans to meet with Palestinian officials to reassure them that "the current period we are going through will not damage the possibility of peace." *Margot Dudkevitch*



New interchange
Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu looks towards Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon after cutting a ribbon to open the Kesem interchange east of Tel Aviv yesterday. (AP)

Likud says Meridor moved left

By LIAT COLLINS

Dan Meridor may have grown up in the Herut, but the Likud made very clear yesterday that it no longer wants him – even as a prodigal son. Only a few MKs openly called on him "to come home" and that seemed to be lip service.

Likud spokeswoman Ronit Eckstein issued a statement saying, "Personal resentment and sabotage of the Likud and its elected leader are what guides Dan Meridor's moves... Dan Meridor went over to the Left a long time ago and his contacts with leftist parties is evidence of this."

Likud whip Meir Sheetrit said the hand of Likud voters will tremble if they try to insert a slip other than the Likud's into the ballot box. He ridiculed the expectations of Meridor and Ronni Milo that they will speak to the hearts of residents of development towns.

Sheetrit also said Uzi Landau and Limor Livnat have no chance of beating the prime minister within the party. He accused some of the Likud members of bringing about early elections and causing divisions within the party, but he said those who remain will be united.

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav said he was "frightened, hurt and frustrated" by what was happening in the Likud.

MK Doron Shmueli said, "Meridor has shown his true face. He is acting out of blind hatred against the prime minister... Meridor is now establishing a party of refugees."

MK Ruby Rivlin, a longtime friend of Meridor, said, "Today, the Likud is breaking up and I can only cry about that."

Moshe Arens, who was Netanyahu's first political mentor, said, "I think Meridor made a very bad mistake in leaving the Likud, and I hope he comes back, but he left as a direct result of the way he was treated by Netanyahu." Arens, a senior Likud figure until his retirement from politics after the 1992 elections, said Netanyahu's handling of Meridor was one of the "major mistakes" of his abortive term as prime minister.

"Instead of closing ranks in the party, Netanyahu kicked one of the leading Likud figures out of the cabinet," Arens said.

He added that he knew of no Israeli government that had fallen after so short a tenure. "This cannot be seen as an achievement."

Larry Derfner contributed to this report.

Begin to quit Likud

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

MK Ze'ev (Benny) Begin announced yesterday that he is quitting the Likud to form an alternative right-wing movement and did not rule out contending for the premiership as head of the new movement.

Begin said he would make clear his intentions in the next few days but would not withdraw from political life.

He slammed Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and accused him personally of splitting and dividing the national camp and destroying the Likud.

"There is no Likud in the proper sense of the word, today," Begin said.

"Netanyahu has squandered the Likud's principles and folded up its flags. The heartache, the disappointment, the destruction, they're all Netanyahu's personal responsibility."

Begin said Netanyahu went about splitting the right wing deliberately and with "cold aforethought," motivated by personal, selfish considerations and the aim of being elected.



Ze'ev Begin (Israel Sun)

"He went to Wye with cold, blood-chilling deliberation to sign the agreement no matter how it was phrased, to divide the right wing and to fish for votes from the Left," he said.

"Today when he sheds crocodile tears and accuses everyone else of personal ambition, it proves again that this man has no limits, no scruples. He has lost all shame. This man has smashed the Likud and must not be allowed to lead it," Begin said.

Olmert will run for PM if urged by Right

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert will agree to run as Likud candidate for prime minister only if he is urged to do so by right-wingers from his party and from other right-wing and religious parties, according to a Likud source close to Olmert.

"Olmert's already received a lot of telephone calls from potential candidates, from Likud members, and from those behind the scene, saying 'Run Ehud, run,'" said the source.

Among the callers to Olmert over the past few days discussing the turbulence within the party were Likud MKs Ze'ev (Benny) Begin, Limor Livnat, Ze'ev Boim, Avraham Herschson, and David Re'em, leaders of the National Religious Party, United Torah Judaism and Shas, as well as Dan Meridor.

"What could take place here is a domino effect, with a lot of people leaving the party," said the source. "Today it's Meridor, tomorrow will be Livnat, a day later Begin, after that Uzi Landau, and then there is no Likud.

"The domino effect will be that the if right-wingers and the right-wing parties say that [Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu can't win because members of his party have left, they then may turn to Olmert and ask him to save the party."

"Olmert will not leave Jerusalem unless he knows everyone is behind him," the source said.

It is considered unlikely that Olmert would join a breakaway right-wing party.

Olmert himself expressed deep regret at Meridor's decision to leave the Likud.

He said Meridor is "a man whose entire public life is an example of fairness," adding that "when such a man announces that he can no longer be a member of the Likud, this is not a moment of happiness, but one of sorrow."

Olmert said no one is more worthy than Meridor to be prime minister, noting that he had experience in politics, diplomacy, and economics, and he urged Netanyahu to do some "soul-searching" over what had happened in the Likud.

Olmert said he did not plan to leave the Likud, but rather to work for change from inside the party.

Itim contributed to this report.

Growing fear in Labor of Shahak

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Tension is mounting in Labor in anticipation of former chief of general staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak's [illegible] at Labor's call-up for public meetings in a campaign [illegible] political agenda [illegible] expected tomorrow, after he is officially discharged from the IDF.

Apparently there is still no agreement between MK Dan Meridor, Ronni Milo and Lipkin-Shahak regarding a joint list, as each of them has opened his own offices and set up his own campaign staff.

Labor's greatest fear is that a number of MKs – according to some estimates as many as 10 – might "migrate" from Labor to join Lipkin-Shahak's new party. In the past the names of potential "deserters" included MKs Haim Ramon, Nissim Zvilli, Hagai Merom, Shimon Peres and several others who don't get along with party leader Ehud Barak.

Barak and senior party members have also expressed fears that the existence of a new center party would reduce the votes of the right and left blocs and necessitate a second round of voting. This would increase pressure on Labor and Likud candidates from the smaller coalition partners between the rounds of voting.

"It is already clear that the fragmentation and splintering of parties will be greater in these elections. If there is a second round, it will lead to blackmail and extortion, as the smaller parties will demand more and more from the leading candidates in exchange for their support in the second round," one senior party source said.

The source said Labor's greatest fear is that Netanyahu will "sell off" every national asset and position just to get the support of the haredi and religious parties to ensure his victory in the second round. "It will be impossible to rule and run the state this way," he said.

Return of the prince

IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

It is no accident that a recurring theme in Dan Meridor's I-wanna-be-prime-minister press conference yesterday was that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is an outsider, while, he – Meridor – is Israeli to the core.

"A situation was created," he said, "where a man that came to Israel 10 years ago took control in a democratic manner of the Likud, I came to the conclusion that there is no chance in the Likud to replace Netanyahu, but that the country must replace Netanyahu."

And then again, when asked to respond to Netanyahu's claim that he has moved to the Left, Meridor responded: "The prime minister excels in labeling. He will not teach me what Eretz Yisrael is, not when he lives here, and not when he lived in the Diaspora for many years."

Indeed, the insider vs. outsider conflict has been a constant theme in the rocky Meridor-Netanyahu relationship. Meridor the crown prince who resents the outsider coming in; and Netanyahu the outsider resentful of the crown prince who effortlessly gets everything handed to him.

On the surface, the two men have much in common. They are close in age: Meridor is 51, Netanyahu, 48. They both grew up in Jerusalem and their fathers were both involved in Revisionist politics. They both reached the rank of captain in the army. Whereas the Meridor family was well accepted in all sectors of society, Netanyahu's family was not even accepted by all those on the Right.

This inside-outside dichotomy became even greater when the Netanyahu family left the country in the 1960s for an extended stay in the US.

Netanyahu's milieu was American, while Meridor was very much the Israeli.

The same dichotomy was evident in the party as well. Meridor worked his way up from within the Likud, becoming the cabinet secretary to Menachem Begin in 1982, a Knesset member in 1984, and justice minister in 1988.

Netanyahu, on the other hand, leapfrogged over the party apparatus. When Meridor became justice minister in 1988, Netanyahu took his seat as a freshman MK.

When Netanyahu returned to Israel in 1988, the "war of the camps" within the Likud was at its height. Both Netanyahu and Meridor were part of the Shamir-Arens camp, which also featured the Likud "princes," that group of rising Likud stars who were being groomed to take control of the party: Ze'ev Binyamin Begin, Ehud Olmert, Ronni Milo, and Meridor himself. Look where the princes are today.

Likud MK Ruby Rivlin, a central figure in Likud's Jerusalem branch for years, knows both men well and once said of the rivalry between the two, "Meridor and the other princes looked down at Netanyahu, had little respect for him, held him in disregard. And Netanyahu resented Meridor for being part of the party's elite, and for being the darling of the country's elite."

If the princes – who saw themselves as Shamir's heirs – felt threatened by Netanyahu, they had good cause. Netanyahu – the outsider, the newcomer, the former furniture salesman – took the central committee by storm. His rise was meteoric, and no one – not even Meridor – could keep pace. By 1993, when Netanyahu overwhelmingly won the internal Likud primaries, the era of the princes was over; the Netanyahu epoch had begun.

The bad blood between the two remained, and boiled over every once in a while. In the run-up to the 1996 election, when the surveys were showing Netanyahu badly trailing Labor candidate Shimon Peres, there was a campaign run mostly through advertisements in the newspapers calling on the Likud to dump Netanyahu, and replace him with Meridor – something the Netanyahu camp viewed as a thinly veiled attempted coup.

Meridor's people, for their part, claimed that prior to the primaries for the Likud's Knesset slate, Netanyahu circulated lists of preferred candidates, and pointedly left Meridor off them. It was within the context of this bad blood that Meridor's willingness to appear on the Likud's first televised spot during the 1996 campaign and voice support for Netanyahu was seen as no small accomplishment, as a sign of peace between the warring camps. It was an illusion.

After the elections, and the appointment of Meridor to the Finance Ministry, the tensions continued to rise. The culmination was the Bar-On Affair. Meridor, viewed by many as the cabinet's moral compass, gave the prime minister no support during the affair. On the contrary, after the attorney-general decided not to indict Netanyahu, Meridor said: "This does not mean that this was not one of the gravest affairs that I can remember since the establishment of the state. This does not mean that there is any reason for joy and happiness."

Meridor left his post soon after, over a micro-economic argument with his boss, and has been a constant, staunch critic of Netanyahu ever since.

Yesterday he became more than a critic; he became a bona fide challenger.

LIKUD
Continued from Page 1

Meridor said he would welcome Amnon Lipkin-Shahak's entering political life and hopes "he will join this great effort, which only [a] few don't desire, to stop this illusory, deceptive spectacle and bring us back to the right track."

Meridor would not refer to the possibility of stepping down from head of the list in favor of Shahak, only reiterating that "I have presented my candidacy for prime minister."

As for Milo, Meridor said that in the past there was no place to discuss cooperation, for he was still in the Likud. Now, he said, the two would have to talk about uniting their forces to replace Netanyahu.

Commenting on Netanyahu's branding him as a "left winger" and one whose political positions are "limp and wimpy," Meridor said "the prime minister excels in putting labels on people. He won't teach me what the Land of Israel is. Not when he's living here, and not when he lived in exile for many years. He cannot teach me about left and right."

He said he intends to deal with content, rather than images.

Outlining his platform, Meridor stressed his commitment to completing the legislation of a constitution, if elected prime minister, without which democratic life, equality, and freedom were not possible.

He said the Oslo agreement, which he thought at the time was a mistake, has turned into a part of our reality.

"A leader must see not only his vision but reality. We are facing one of the most difficult situations in the Israeli-Arab dispute, and Israel is reaching the negotiations with a leadership devoid of one gram of credibility."

Earlier yesterday, Netanyahu attacked Meridor and said those who oppose him in the Likud are motivated by personal ambitions and fantasies.

Referring to Meridor, Netanyahu said "he went to the Left, perhaps already years ago. He is thinking of joining a party which is identified with Labor and the Left. His political positions are flaccid and limp."

Olmert came out in Meridor's defense and launched an attack on Netanyahu, calling his words against Meridor "propaganda."

"Dan Meridor is no left winger, with flaccid views. He is an asset to the Likud, one of the roots of this movement, son of Jerusalem's IZL commander, a man who served beside the late prime minister Menachem Begin and was the right hand of prime minister Shamir."

"Meridor's entire public life has been a paragon of decency and virtue, good taste and sound judgment. When a man like that announces he can no longer be a member of the Likud, it's truly a sad moment," Olmert said.

Within the party, too, there are several MKs who have turned against Netanyahu and others who don't hesitate to criticize him openly, such as Shamir, MK David Reem and coalition chairman Meir Sheetrit.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is teetering on the edge of the Likud, fluctuating between staying and joining Barak, who invited him to Labor.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat and MK Uzi Landau have decided to fight to change the Likud leadership from within and are considering contending against Netanyahu.

LEBANESE
Continued from Page 1

Liat Collins adds:

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz yesterday warned against a unilateral IDF withdrawal from south Lebanon. According to an unofficial briefing, Mofaz told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that should the IDF unilaterally pull out of Lebanon, there would be a higher price to pay and there could be a return to the type of terrorist attacks in northern communities like the fatal attacks on children at Avivim and Ma'alot.

"The different interests in the area haven't and won't change in the event of a withdrawal, not those of the Syrians, or the Iranians or of Hizbullah. All of them want to be a political force in Lebanon," he said.

He said withdrawal could only take place through an agreement between the sides and if a third body took responsibility for the area the IDF leaves.

ANALYSIS
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For a while, they all seemed dispensable to him, partly because he filled the Likud central committee with a claque of loyalists, partly because he was so effective in using television to leapfrog the party and reach out directly to the mass of ordinary voters.

But his current troubles stem from the fact that he has no friends left: most party elites and coalition partners have concluded that they won't be fooled again.

Whether or not Netanyahu recovers from these troubles depends on the extent to which the voters come to the same conclusion.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Colette Avital, of the Foreign Ministry, will speak on: European/Israeli Relations. Seasons Greetings to All!

With deep sorrow we mourn the passing of

SUSI SARAH SIEGMAN ע"נ

the beloved wife of the late
Reb. Menachem Mendel Siegman
who passed away yesterday in New York.

For funeral and shiva information, call:
052-600-199, (03)-694-5367, (02)-991-0873, (02)-991-8282

Siegman, Halpern, Lobel families.

Our deepest condolences to
Aaron, Esther, Henry, Isaac, Miriam and Moishe
on the passing of their beloved mother

SARAH SIEGMAN ע"נ

wife of the late Mendel Siegmen
A true woman of valor.

Levensohn, Sivitz and Maser families.

Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh
expresses its deepest sympathy to
Malka Taub שתחי'
on the passing of her dear husband

MOSHE DOV TAUB ז"ל

A man of vision and a generous supporter of Torah education
המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Rav Mordechai Greenberg, Rosh Hayeshiva — **Eli Klein**, Director

The directors, management, staff, parents and children of the Keren Or Center for multi-handicapped blind children
extend heartfelt condolences to
Judy Steinberg, S. Daniel Abraham, Jeremiah Abraham and all the family
on the passing of their mother

STELLA ABRAHAM ע"נ

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Elections committee asks for 100 days

By AMY KLEIN

The Knesset Central Elections Committee could arrange for balloting in 60 days but would like three months and really prefers 100 days to put the apparatus in place, to set up the ballot boxes, draft election workers and take care of the myriad details it takes to run an efficient national election.

Not that premature Knesset elections are something new: Seven of the 14 have been early, including the last, which was held in May instead of November 1996.

Tamar Edri, director-general of the committee, is currently the only full-time staffer, but she has three part-timers who work year-round on the national elections. Full operations, however, can begin only when the Knesset passes the early elections bill, which will include the elections date.

That is when the real work begins: Edri will draft 250 committee members, who will be released from their government jobs for election reserve duty. Eighteen regional committees will then be opened around the country to ready the 7,500 ballot stations, program a computer system for registering parties and tallying ballots, and prepare some 40,000 volunteers for election day.

The committee must also prepare absentee ballots for voters who are abroad, imprisoned, hospitalized, or shipbound.

The whole process costs approximately NIS 2 million, said Edri, and the cost doesn't change if the elections are held early. "It is all a matter of logistics. I have the equipment ready and have done everything it is possible to do to prepare for elections before the date has been set."

Edri said the committee would even be able to prepare in 60 days – the time period alloted for new elections if the prime minister resigns or is voted out in a no-confidence motion. However, Edri has requested that the Knesset Legislation Committee change the 60-day minimum electioneering period to 100 days.

One major difficulty is that the Interior Ministry only updates the electoral register once a year, and even the information from the municipal elections, which is not the same list, needs to be updated. Parties must register their lists at least 47 days before elections.

For all the parties, early elections mean they have to hire advertising agencies, political consultants, pollsters, volunteers, fund-raisers, and all the cogs which make political machinery turn.

But Labor Party spokesman Yitzhak Revihaya said Labor needs no more than 60 days to prepare. "We are always ready," he said, "to do whatever it takes to put an end to this government."



Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak confers with Meretz MK Haim Oron in the Knesset yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

Gov't can still fall in no-confidence vote

By LIAT COLLINS

The government can still technically fall in a motion of no-confidence on Monday, even before the early elections bill has time to come up for its final readings.

Meretz declared a no-confidence motion this week on the vote for the bill which would, among other things, require all members of religious councils to pledge allegiance to the Chief Rabbinate.

If a no-confidence motion receives the support of 61 MKs, elections must be held within 60 days. However, with early elections, any date can be decided.

Yesterday, the Knesset Law Committee continued its discussions on an amendment to the Basic Law: The Government, which would extend the 60-day period.

Committee chairman Hanan Porat (National Religious Party) favored lengthening it to 100 days; MK Ruby Rivlin (Likud) said his faction had agreed on 90 days. The committee adopted this recommendation.

The debate and vote on first reading of this extension is expected to be held today. It requires the support of 61 MKs to pass.

Porat drew up the amendment after hearing from the Central Elections Committee that it needs more than 60 days to prepare for early elections.

Rivlin, Dedi Zucker (Meretz) and others advised treating the proposed amendment with care and not creating the impression it is hastily being drawn up to answer the specific needs.

Deputy Attorney-General Joshua Schoffman earlier this week warned against making such an amendment retroactive, and compared it to the constitutional dilemma of whether the Knesset has the right to extend its own period in office to seven years.

Nonetheless, Porat seems intent on getting the amendment passed as quickly as possible, even though it is possible Meretz will drop the no-confidence motion at the last moment.

The Law Committee is expected to discuss the date for early elections next Monday. Porat rejected criticism that he was either expediting or holding up the preparation for the second and third reading of the early elections bill, which passed by a large majority on Monday.

Economic bills' future cloudy

By NINA GILBERT

With the Knesset headed towards dissolution, the fate of pending government legislation was in serious question yesterday.

Beyond the second and third readings on the early elections bill, the most important legislation that must be approved by the Knesset is the economic arrangements bill and the 1999 state budget bill.

The state budget already has passed a first reading, but the government has not yet put the economic arrangements bill to a vote. It has repeatedly withdrawn the bill from the agenda due to a lack of majority caused by coalition demands.

The bill is due to be brought before the House for a first reading again on Monday. If the bill – a host of economic reforms – is not passed by the Knesset, the state budget won't be approved either. If there is no budget by the end of the year – next Thursday night – a temporary, monthly budget will take effect.

Talks between the coalition and opposition on making changes to the economic arrangements bill began last week, but will only be renewed next week, coalition chairman Meir Sheetrit said yesterday.

MK Haim Oron (Meretz) said the opposition would demand that only six or seven clauses of the 47 in the bill necessary for operating the budget be kept.

However, Sheetrit said the final number would be much greater.

"All those clauses that significantly affect the budget cannot be removed," Sheetrit said.

An example, he said, is the clause that would freeze the implementation of the Public Housing Law. He said that under no circumstances would the coalition agree to rescind the measure since the nation simply could not afford to fund the sell-off of apartments to long-term residents at huge discounts.

"I am opposed to an election budget and there will be no compromises if we consider changes based on political instead of professional aims," Sheetrit said.

The opposition also is asking that politically related funding be frozen in the budget.

Due to the problem with the economic arrangements bill, Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz is not preparing the budget for its second and third readings. He has also said that it would not be possible to pass the arrangements bill in its present state.

Another controversial bill, which would block the representation of Reform and Conservative rabbis from religious councils, was turned into a no-confidence motion by Oron on Monday night. The bill, which would require council rabbis to sign an oath to the Chief Rabbinate, is also to be put to a vote on Monday.

Oron's move led the government to withdraw the economic arrangements bill Monday night, since United Torah Judaism made the passage of the religious councils bill a condition for its support.

However, the religious councils bill has in effect become a dead duck, due to the political situation, in which the coalition has stopped functioning. Yisrael Ba'aliya and The Third Way have said they would block the bill. If Oron does not remove his no-confidence motion, the bill could still be defeated without the government falling as long as it gets a majority of fewer than 61 MKs.

As elections loom, MKs ready for spending spree

By LIAT COLLINS

MKs in the current Knesset might be running out of time but they are not running out of money. With the sudden realization that their term of office and the financial year are coming to an end, they are readying themselves to make full use of their budgets.

MKs are eligible to receive up to NIS 40,000 a year - for "keeping in touch with the voter" - to be spent on office equipment such as phones, fax machines, computers, photocopiers and so forth for which they need to present the Knesset with receipts. They can also buy televisions, radios, videos and refrigerators for their offices.

This funding can be accumulated from year to year and there is no need to return the equipment when MKs leave.

In addition, they receive NIS 40,000 a year for renting offices but this money is handled entirely through the Knesset and they do not see it directly.

As in previous years, the MKs are expected to increase their spending towards the end of December – but this time they will do so under the extra pressure of knowing they might not be in the Knesset this time next year.

Some veteran MKs have accumulated huge sums they are free to use.

Labor whip Elie Goldschmidt said that he had in the past asked the Knesset House Committee that the equipment be returned when the MKs leave, but his suggestion was rejected.

Yesterday, the Knesset seemed to be collectively suffering from tiredness and depression, after Monday's initial decision for early elections kept most of them in the House past 11 pm.

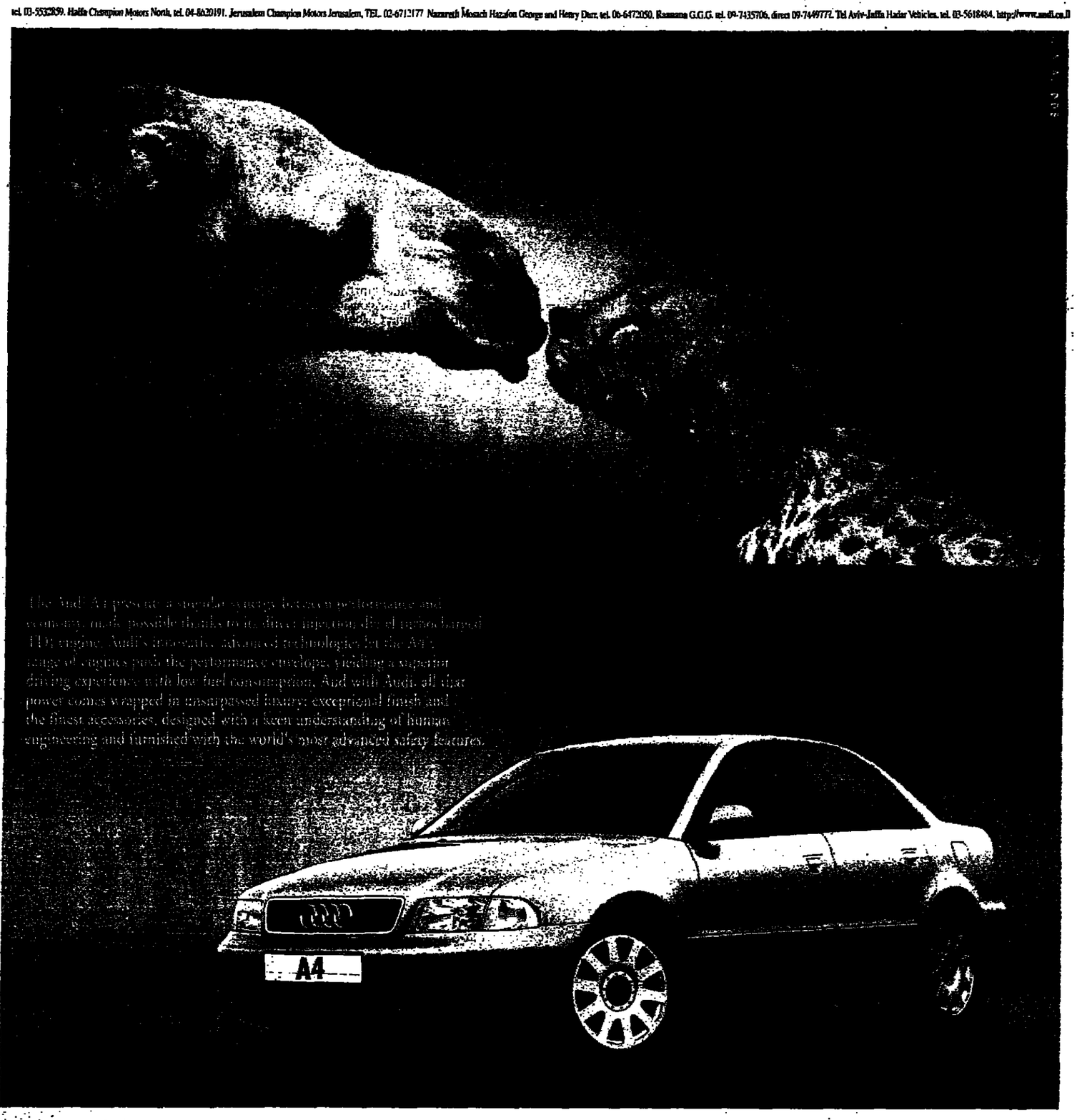
Coalition and Likud whip Meir Sheetrit said it was "business as usual."

But MKs, particularly those whose parties hold primary elections, began preparing to fight for their political futures.

Labor MK Ophir Pines-Paz said the committee rooms had been empty until about 10 am, "when we pulled ourselves together and the Knesset began to work." Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon said he assumes the Knesset will gradually wind down as election day grows closer.

"I expect the MKs will go out to the marketplaces to ensure their re-election, each in his [or her] own party," Tichon said.

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Mofaz: More unrest in territories expected

By LIAT COLLINS

More unrest can be expected in the territories, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz said yesterday.

Israel Radio reported that last week 17 Israeli civilians and 20 soldiers were hurt in the territories, while two Palestinians were killed and some 500 injured.

"The situation in the territories depends in my opinion on a number of factors: on the future of the diplomatic process and the will and ability of the Palestinian Authority to implement its side of the agreement," Mofaz told reporters following a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. "I don't want to make an assessment until the IDF has completed its thorough assessments of the new situation."

In the meeting, he reportedly criticized the Jewish Hebron residents in Beit Hadassah and Beit Romano who refuse to accept additional IDF protective measures such as reinforced windows and transport of schoolchildren in IDF protected vehicles.

He said the residents had even sent him a letter with their refusal to accept these measures.

"One can't demand that the IDF increase the level of security for civilians when they won't cooperate with the IDF," he said. "The IDF does its best to offer protection. In Judea and Samaria there is a reinforced troops presence. We have invested and continue to invest millions of shekels in improving security of the settlers."

He said in places other than Hebron the residents are cooperating with the IDF.

Mofaz brought the point up after committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) asked about the security situation in Hebron, where residents said there have recently been several shooting attacks, but the IDF did not return fire or carry out a hot pursuit into the PA controlled area.

Mofaz said the shooting was by someone with a revolver and the source of fire had not been clearly identified and therefore hot pursuit was not carried out.

He also told the committee that there is a possibility for more unrest in Gaza. He said before the visit by US President Bill Clinton that Gaza had been fully under control by the PA, which was motivated by the continuation of the peace process, but this could change if the process is frozen.

Margot Dudkevitch adds:

The Hebron Jewish Community said they were outraged at Mofaz's remarks criticizing residents for refusing to accept the IDF's defensive measures and armored transport.

"Instead of trying to apprehend the terrorists responsible for three shooting incidents in the Jewish Quarter over the past week, he is shifting the blame," charged community spokesman David Wilder.

Wilder said that residents refused to live in bunkers and expected the IDF to take responsibility for their security and safety instead of trying to shift the blame elsewhere.

The residents demand an increase of IDF troops in the H2 area under Israeli control and call on security forces to apprehend the terrorists instead of hiding behind "bullet-proof outposts" Wilder said.



Palestinian journalists demonstrate

Some 100 Palestinian journalists march behind a coffin yesterday on their way to the Palestinian Legislative Council, in Gaza, in protest over the Palestinian Authority's use of force to suppress their reporting. Several reporters were beaten and eight detained covering a protest in Gaza last week against the attacks on Iraq. (Reuters)

Pines-Paz charges Netanyahu playing politics with Nativ

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is playing politics with the status of Liaison Bureau (Nativ) director Ya'acov Kedmi, enabling him to stay on just to gain electoral support among Russian-speakers, Labor MK Ophir Pines-Paz charged yesterday.

Pines-Paz was responding to Kedmi's statement to the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee yesterday that he will rescind his letter of resignation submitted to Netanyahu if, as he has heard, the prime minister delays for six months implementation of the Tamir Committee's recommendations to alter the Liaison Bureau's activities.

Kedmi said he is awaiting written confirmation of this and acceptance of his recommendations regarding how the bureau should function during these six months before rescinding his resignation.

The committee, appointed by Netanyahu himself in April to look into Nativ's operations, reportedly recommended that its intelligence and assessment functions be turned over to the Foreign Ministry and Mossad, respectively.

The recommendations had previously been approved by the prime minister, sparking Kedmi's resignation. Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yom Tov Tamir, who headed the committee, confirmed reports of the delay.

"Suddenly, amazingly, hocus-pocus, everything changes," Pines-Paz said. "I have an uncomfortable feeling that the prime minister's decision-making processes were not influenced by what is going on in the former Soviet Union, but rather by what is going on here. Because we all know that Ya'acov Kedmi has a good name and is influential in Israeli society and among the new immigrants. And I have the feeling that the prime minister prefers for now, until the storm passes here and he knows what's happening, to leave him in the system and neutralize him from involvement in the political arena."

"He's willing to go that far?" shot back committee chairwoman Likud MK Naomi Blumenthal?

"I have no doubt," said Pines-Paz.

"Just so we're sure it's not you who is saying things for political expediency," said Blumenthal. "Is Kedmi going to run for prime minister?"

"No, he doesn't have to," said Pines-Paz. "We're talking about one of the most sensitive, responsible posts within the Prime Minister's Office, and it's unacceptable that decision-making processes be based on these reasons. It's simply madness."

Blumenthal disagreed, saying Netanyahu's considerations were "completely legitimate" and based on changes that had occurred within the former Soviet Union.

Kedmi himself said his resignation was unrelated to the committee's work, but that he wrote Netanyahu to express his reservations about their recommendations "after I learned about decisions the prime minister made based upon them... Their implementation would have constituted a radical change in the state of Israel's policy vis a vis Jews [in the former Soviet Union] compared to what had been the policy of the government since the organization's establishment."

In his letter, Kedmi made his own recommendations, adding that if they were not accepted he could not stay on. One week later, he was told the prime minister had read his letter and saw no reason to change his decision, and Kedmi submitted his resignation.

But at a subsequent meeting also attended by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, "the prime minister told me there is an opinion that in light of the new situation in the field, it might be worthwhile delaying implementation for awhile."

A week later, he was told by a Foreign Ministry official that Netanyahu had indeed decided on such a delay. Kedmi said he had yet to get this in writing from Netanyahu, and until then could not officially rescind his resignation.

Hospitalized Holocaust survivors to move to hostels

By JUDY SIEGEL

Two voluntary organizations, one that helps Holocaust survivors and the other mental patients, yesterday welcomed the Health Ministry's announcement that it would soon transfer some 300 Holocaust survivors hospitalized for decades in psychiatric hospitals to hostels, old age homes and other non-hospital facilities.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza reached his decision after hearing intermediate, oral recommendations from a public committee established by the Justice and Health ministries several months ago to investigate claims of deprivation by Holocaust survivors who are mental patients.

The committee, which is due to present a final report in writing, is headed by retired district court judge Ya'acov Bazak. The committee was appointed following an investigatory article in *Ma'ariv* that claimed almost 1,000 Holocaust survivors confined to psychiatric institutions in stark conditions since the early days of the state have been deprived of German reparations, which are instead being held by the General Custodian.

Amcha, the national center for psychosocial support for Holocaust survivors and the second generation, has been asked by the ministry to help prepare plans for rehabilitating those patients who will be moved into the community.

Amcha director Jon Lemberger said that most of the 300 are currently living in private, rather than state-owned institutions.

He added that for a year Amcha assisted an patient who spent 45 years in a psychiatric hospital to move into an old age home.

"His relatives on a kibbutz said he was crazy and stopped caring for him; he probably could have been released years ago from the hospital if there had been community care and he had somebody to fight for him," Lemberger said.

While the Conference on Jewish Claims against the Germans have allocated money to build hostels for elderly Holocaust survivors, including mental patients, Lemberger was concerned about an outbreak next year of "anxiety, fear and frustration" among the 360,000 remaining Israeli Holocaust survivors who are not psychiatric patients.

"The process of the Swiss transferring $60 million starting in January to survivors will cause concern among these survivors, because who will get money is not clear due to a dispute involving the Treasury, National Insurance Institute and survivors' groups.

Shmuel Cohen, chairman of Enosh (the Israel Mental Health Association), praised Matza for deciding to transfer patients out of psychiatric hospitals and into more suitable facilities.

"No other minister has done this, but I am anxious that it should not produce homeless people living on park benches as in US cities."

While moving elderly patients from hospitals where they have lived for decades to another place could be traumatic, Cohen said it was "1,000 times better" to be granted better living conditions and to lose the stigma of being in psychiatric institutions.

Cohen suggested that economic considerations may be partially involved, as empty beds in state institutions could be filled with those mental patients from private institutions who still need psychiatric care.

State radio stations must play Hebrew music at least half the time

By NINA GILBERT

Israeli culture won a boost – but not a victory – over foreign influences yesterday, when the Knesset passed a law requiring that at least half of songs broadcast on state radio must be Hebrew songs.

"The law will help preserve original Israeli culture and act as a protective wall against the trend towards 'Americanization,'" the bill's sponsor MK Yona Yahav (Labor) said.

"A culture that does not know how to protect itself eventually falls to pieces," he said.

Singers Zvika Pik and Avihu Medina were on hand to see the law passed.

However, the law does not stipulate any repercussions for violations or a system of monitoring the balance of Hebrew songs. It will not apply to regional radio stations already under operation, but will apply to future stations.

According to the law, a song is considered Hebrew if half of its content is in Hebrew.

Reshet Gimmel already broadcasts only Hebrew songs.

The only opposition to the law, passed by 23-1, came from Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, who asked whether the measure would lead Gimmel to cut its Hebrew songs to 50 percent.

"This is a law suited to Russia," he added.

Next week, another Yahav bill to boost funding for the Israeli film industry is to be brought for its second and final readings.

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Latin patriarch criticizes Israel

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Israeli authorities are ultimately responsible for tension and conflicts between Moslems and Christians, both in Israel and the Palestinian Authority, Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah claimed yesterday in a Christmas message.

At the same time, a close aide to the patriarch named a Likud official as being personally responsible for creating unrest between Moslems and Christians in Nazareth.

Sabbah, stressing the Christian-Moslem tension for the first time, said that Israeli fears over security had impeded the peace process, limiting Palestinian freedom of movement and space to grow, and in turn creating nervousness and tension between individuals and families.

However, he also said that the PA was doing nothing to control inter-religious tension either.

In the PA, fights have erupted between Christians and Moslems in what were once mostly Christian towns such as Beit Sahur and Ramallah. According to Patriarchate spokesman Wadie Abunassar, these were ordinary conflicts between neighbors which were interpreted as inter-religious battles.

Tension in Nazareth relates to an area formerly occupied by a school near the Basilica of the Annunciation, on which the municipality had planned to build a plaza for the year 2000, but which Moslems had occupied, claiming it as the site of a former mosque.

In the recent municipal elections there, the Hadash mayor was re-elected, while the Islamic List won a majority of seats on the municipal council. Following a stormy council meeting last week, where those involved failed to agree on a coalition, rioters attacked shops with Christmas decorations and seven people were injured.

Regarding Nazareth, the patriarch said that "a foreign hand is fomenting discord." When asked by reporters if he was referring to the Israeli government, he said he was not, adding that the "foreign hand" was everyone who was interested in fomenting tension. However, he added that it was the responsibility of the government to control the situation.

Later Abunassar told reporters that it was Likud Arab affairs advisor Danny Greenberg who had exacerbated the tension in Nazareth, in an attempt to gain votes for his party. In response, Greenberg said that he had not been involved in the situation for the past year and thus did not understand why such a charge should be made against him.

In reaction to the patriarch's statement, Uri Mor, director of the Religious Affairs Ministry's department for Christian communities, said that the government and the Ministry saw any attack by one religious community on another as serious and worked to ease such tensions. However, Mor angrily rejected any attempt by Sabbah or the leader of any other Christian community to say that Israel was to blame for Moslem attacks on Christians.

Mor added that Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani had personally supervised police action following the attacks last week in Nazareth.

Agency emissary kicked out of Ukraine

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Diplomatic efforts are being launched to repair any damage caused by a recent incident resulting in the expulsion of a Jewish Agency emissary from Ukraine after accusations against agency operatives of "industrial espionage."

Jewish Agency Director-General Shimshon Shoshani said yesterday that the incident grew out of work done by emissaries in Ukraine with scientists who might consider immigrating to Israel.

"Ukrainian officials warned us against conducting such activity, and just before we began to reorganize our efforts they told our representative in Odessa, Noah Nadler, about two weeks ago that he must leave the country within five days," Shoshani said, adding that Nadler was accused of "industrial espionage."

The Ukrainians acted after an agency gathering of such scientists.

"He returned here, and we looked into the matter to see if there had been anything improper in his behavior," Shoshani said. "It turned out to be a general problem and not a personal one, and the order came from above. Local staff working for the agency there were warned not to be involved in similar activities and were forced to sign undertakings that they would not be involved in encouraging scientists to emigrate to Israel.

"We believe this is very serious, because we have a mandate to which the Ukrainian government agreed to work in encouraging immigration. This incident is apparently against the background of the wider relationship [between the two countries], and the Jewish Agency is being used here as a warning."

Shoshani said the Ukrainians are aware that many scientists have left the country or plan on doing so.

This is not the first time Ukrainian officials have interfered with agency efforts, Shoshani said, adding that Foreign Ministry officials are involved in trying to straighten out the matter ahead of Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon's planned trip to Ukraine.

Nativ director Ya'acov Kedmi said that "mistakes on both sides" were responsible for the incident. "The problem can be solved if all the bodies in Israel connected with this matter cooperate, and I believe the Ukrainians are also interested in solving it."

He said Sharon's visit would help resolve the issue.

Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal said "the situation in the Balkan nations and in the CIS is very fluid and worrisome, and I hope the way will be found to see to it that immigration from these states not stop, including where we are speaking of immigration by those with certain professions or certain sectors."



Patriot candies

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai demonstrated Israel's gratitude to the US yesterday by presenting New Year gifts of candy to troops stationed here to man Patriot anti-missile batteries during Operation Desert Fox.

Palestinians mark Ramadan with fasting, charity, and 'getting closer to God'

By BEN LYNFIELD

What is the essence of Ramadan, the poignant yet joyous Moslem month of fasting, which began over the weekend?

A 14-year-old schoolgirl in the Saadiya neighborhood of the Moslem quarter in Jerusalem's Old City and a senior cleric at al-Aksa Mosque came up with the same answer: *takarub ila allah*, getting closer to God, during the month in which the Koran was revealed.

The rest, as Hillel – or an Islamic counterpart – might say, is commentary.

But it is vital commentary, for Islamic tradition lays out definitive pathways for attaining the objective: fasting and refraining from marital relations from dawn to sunset; prayer; reading from the Koran; acts of charity; and moral behavior such as refraining from malicious gossip.

Ideally, it is a time earmarked for sanctifying and bettering oneself.

According to Islamic law, the month starts when two witnesses testify before Islamic jurists that they have sighted the crescent moon. Siting in one locale, theoretically, is enough to start the observance of Ramadan everywhere.

In practice, however, politics has at times influenced when Ramadan starts.

During the 1960s when Egypt and Saudi Arabia were at loggerheads, the religious establishments invariably started the fasting period on different days in the two countries.

In 1995, the Palestinian Authority, in a show of independence, declared the start of Ramadan on a different day than Jordan, causing much confusion in the West Bank.

For Sana Mansour, 14, a student at the Fatah al-Lajia School in the Moslem Quarter, a Ramadan day begins by waking up around 4 a.m. and joining her father, mother, sister, and brother for a meal. At 7, she heads for school, where "everyone in the class is fasting."

"It's not so hard, you get used to it," says Mansour, who started observing the fast at age seven.

In the afternoon, Mansour studies and helps her mother prepare the *iftar*, the evening fast-breaking meal, which brings together the entire family. At times her father invites poor people to join: more often he gives them money for food.

The Mansours break the fast with vegetable soup, then meat or chicken is served, and for dessert it is *kataif*, a Ramadan pancake with cheese and walnuts on the inside.

After reading from the Koran and watching television, Mansour goes to sleep.

Amid all this activity, she has, of course, taken time out to pray five times. "Ramadan is an opportunity to come closer to God and for people to do things for each other," she says.

Abdel-Fatah Fakir, a teacher from Casablanca, says the fast is the core of his observance. "It renews my soul spiritually and is healthy for my body," he says.

Fakir is spending his first Ramadan in Jerusalem by cooking up kataif at a cafe near Herod's Gate owned by his brother-in-law.

Married a week ago to a Palestinian bride, Fakir is already looking forward to getting back to Morocco. While he says he is enjoying Jerusalem, Ramadan is marked in greater style back home, Fakir says.

"People go to the sea, to the parks, and they stay out till midnight or later," he says. "Here people remain in their houses."

"It's better there, people are more open, we have the French influence," he adds. "There are chances for men to meet women more easily during the Ramadan evenings."

Outside the offices of the Wakf, the Islamic body that oversees al-Aksa Mosque, a prayer leader termed Ramadan "the month of patience," since the fast and ascent to a higher moral plane require self-discipline.

"If someone says something insulting to you, you should respond: O Lord I'm fasting," he said. "The most important thing about Ramadan is getting close to God the most high," the sheikh wrote in a reporter's notebook.

NEWS *in brief*

Woman gives birth to 18th child

A 43-year-old woman from Galilee gave birth to her 18th child on Monday in Safed Hospital. The baby boy, delivered by caesarean section, has 11 sisters and six brothers as well as eight nieces and nephews.

"It is important that all Jewish mothers know that every child is a world in itself," the mother said yesterday. "Every mother who can still bring children into the world should continue to do so." *Itim*

Bill banning human cloning passes committee

A private member's bill that would ban human cloning has been approved by the Knesset Science and Technology Committee and prepared for its second and third readings. The bill, initiated by Labor MK Haggai Merom, was amended so that it wouldn't bar cloning wholesale, but would allow legitimate scientific research to be conducted.

The bill, if passed, would be in effect only for five years so that the ethical, legal and social implications of the possibility of human cloning could be reassessed. Merom said the possibility of amending, cancelling or extending the law would allow it to adapt to scientific developments.

The bill would prohibit any genetic intervention aimed at cloning, multiplying or creating humans genetically and chromosomally that would be identical to another human or embryo, live or dead. It would also bar intervention aimed at intentional and permanent genetic changes of human gametes (sex cells). *Judy Siegel*

Pro-life booklets withdrawn from abortion clinics

Distribution of a Health Ministry booklet that was to be presented to every woman who applies for a legal abortion has been frozen, pending reassessment of its contents. Minister Yehoshua Matza decided this week.

The 10-page booklet had been prepared by ministry deputy director-general for information Yair Amikam according to the specifications of Deputy Minister Shlomo Benizri (Shas). It has an anti-abortion message, complete with color photos of young, human-looking embryos and charts of the length and weight of fetuses at various stages of development four to 16 weeks after conception. "You must certainly be curious what stage of development the fetus in your womb is in and how it looks now," says a photo caption. *Judy Siegel*

Maccabiah lawyer appears before Knesset

Robert Kaye, the Sydney-based lawyer representing the Australian victims of the Maccabiah bridge disaster, is to appear today before the special Knesset committee looking into the matter.

Kaye is expected to urge the Knesset to pressure the president and chairman of the games' organizers, the Maccabiah World Union, to resign or step aside pending the completion of legal proceedings.

"In these circumstances, it would be a legitimate expectation that the MWU executives behave morally. However, inaction by the MWU only reinforces the sense of distrust by the Australian community," Kaye said. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Zissman: hands off Educational TV

No changes should be made at Educational Television until a review of its operations can be completed by June 1, Knesset Education Committee Chairman Emanuel Zissman said yesterday in reaction to last week's dismissal of Educational Television director-general Michal Arbel. Zissman said that he believed the Education Ministry would abide by the decision not to make such changes, and he was therefore incensed to hear of Arbel's firing, criticizing it as a political move. Although Arbel's case is before the courts, Zissman repeated his request that the station be left alone until the review of its operations is completed. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

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Banana-skin war

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

It is clear that impeachment, Iraq and the collapse of the Israeli coalition have all been engineered to divert attention from the real international crisis. The coming Banana War could end civilization as we know it.

Under cover of exploding missiles and imploding Republican mistresses, US officials have drawn up a hit-list of European exports that will have 100 percent tariffs slapped on them in the New Year.

Canny Americans should stock up on their supplies of Pecorino cheeses and Louis Vuitton handbags right away. Lean times are just around the corner.

The fact that European Union exports worth a staggering 600 million euros are being targeted by US economic smart weapons, just as that same euro currency unit makes its 1999 debut, is purely coincidental. Of course, such things always are, like the increasing volume of irritated noise and bah-humbugging being directed at the euro and the Europeans from American business and capitalist federal mouthpieces.

Ba-na humbug

The ostensible reason for this sneaky but developing US-Euro trade war is alleged American concern over the European Union giving preferential treatment to banana exporters in former European colonies. This is to the detriment of Central American producers.

Bananas? It sounds like some little Christmas joke – the world's two trade giants face off over a few banana republics.

Will Santa come to the rescue, buy bananas to fill all the stockings of the world and save everyone's face at the last minute? Only a certain Lee Christmas could laugh at that one – more on him later.

In the real world, there is nothing at all 'funny' about bananas and so-called banana republics, despite the shape of the fruit and the efforts of generations of cartoonists and slap-stick comedians.

American concern for Central America's banana producers has little to do with altruistic concern for Central America. This would be as funny as any comic hoofer falling ass-over-apex on a banana skin.

It is about the profits of the huge American companies who market Third World bananas, not about concern for the Third World producers. It is also about a rising tide of American animosity toward an alarmingly successful and ambitious European Union.

Banana men

The history of the American banana companies in Central America is a story of blood, banditry and exploitation, before which most European colonialism pales. It is a not a history oozing with concern for the rights of banana producers of Central America or the competition they face from banana producers of the European-dominated Caribbean.

The modern-day predicament of Central Americans has had little to do with overcrowded banana markets. It has a lot to do with their history and the way it has been shaped, or rather stunted, by their contact with North Americans.

Between the 1890s and the 1950s the exploits of American "banana men" became unsavory legends across the Central American isthmus.

A gaggle of American carpetbaggers and mercenaries teamed up with, or bought off, corrupt local politicians and wannabe generalissimos to impose political and economic dictatorships on vulnerable societies. As these small-time entrepreneurs developed into monstrous fruit conglomerates, the semi-official hand of Uncle Sam, directed by powerful lobbies, became ever more visible.

Prominent among the robber banana-barons of Central America was Sam Zemurray, a Moldavian Jewish US immigrant who made a fortune from bananas in Honduras by first getting into the business of revolution.

Through his faithful and murderous gun-toting mercenary sidekick from Mississippi, Lee Christmas, Zemurray and the Honduran Manuel Bonilla fomented a revolution in 1911. Zemurray built his empire on the back of the bloodshed and Bonilla's success.

In New Orleans, Zemurray later made a dubious transition to being "respectable" overlord of the "respectable" United Fruit conglomerate.

United Fruit played a disgraceful role in the Guatemalan coup of 1954, honoring Zemurray's tradition of gaining absolute commercial power in Central America by bribery, murder, revolution, and the racist exploitation of non-whites.

By the 1950s he had amassed the greatest ever agro and commodities empire. It was known as the Octopus – later the Black Octopus, when Eli Black became president after Zemurray's death in 1961. He changed the conglomerate name to United Brands.

Black leapt off the 44th floor of the PanAm building in New York in 1975. A subsequent official inquiry revealed vast bribery and corruption in fixing banana prices and taxes in Honduras, and the scandal brought down the Honduran president.

Right up to the 1980s, US policies in support of the elites and concessionaires of Central America's pawns of the banana barons remained the legacy of Zemurray and Christmas, and their hatred of unions, leftists and revolutionaries who weren't firmly in their pockets.

After all that, we must now be lectured on how those nasty Europeans are giving the poor banana producers of Central America a raw deal by favoring their own Caribbean buddies.

It is actually two American companies, Dole Food Co. and Chiquita Brands International, who are heading the complaints, saying they have lost hundreds of millions of dollars because of the EU banana policies.

Zemurray Christmas, Lee Christmas, and to all – a good fight!

Where corruption is the rule

Lawlessness in Russia is so rampant, no one gets excited about the crimes in the Duma

By MICHAEL SLACKMAN



Widespread corruption in Russia chips away attempts at economic recovery, endangering the health and safety of citizens. (AP)

A member of Russia's parliament, Vasily Kobylkin, was sitting behind his desk one day last May when two fellow lawmakers popped into his office and invited him into the hall.

Kobylkin stepped into the broad, carpeted corridor of the office building near Red Square and waited as his colleagues scribbled something on a piece of paper. What they soon revealed was an offer for a bribe: $5,000 if he agreed to vote to confirm Sergei Kiryenko as prime minister, and another $5,000 after the vote.

"They are all afraid the offices are bugged, so they wrote it down: 'Kiryenko, $5,000 before, and $5,000 after.' It was clear to me what that means," said Kobylkin, a former construction worker who now represents a district 400 kms south of Moscow.

A few months later, he said, it happened again. This time, he said, he was offered an immediate $10,000 payment if he voted to confirm Victor Chernomyrdin as prime minister. "I don't know the exact source of this money," he said, "but the conversation about it is absolutely open."

Since the collapse of the Soviet system, Russia has become the Dodge City of the East, with a reputation as a lawless society where businessmen are shot, foreigners robbed and merchants forced to buy protection.

But lawlessness cuts much deeper, into the peoples' very soul, creating a far more corrosive problem. Rampant corruption chips away attempts at economic recovery, endangering not only the health and safety of citizens but the very cohesion of the state.

THE situation has become so ordinary, in fact, that when Kobylkin became the first elected official last week to publicly confirm his connection to such illegal activities (although he denied taking the money), his statements produced a big yawn, garnering just one newspaper article.

Then, after he reasserted his allegations in an interview with *Newsday*, some of his colleagues in the Duma and officials in law enforcement not only confirmed and elaborated on his accusations, they threw their hands up saying there is no way to either stop the corruption or prosecute those who are guilty.

"It is very true," said Vladimir Semago, another Duma deputy who, while no friend of Kobylkin, confirmed his comments. "It is very realistic. The problem is, society knows about this but nobody wants to do anything."

Semago said the corruption is so brazen, lawmakers actually sell their services with prices going something like this: $500 for a Duma car sticker that can win favor from traffic police; $1,000 to $5,000 for a credential identifying someone as a deputy's assistant; and $10,000 for permission to use a deputy's name in official business.

"This is not a secret," Michael Belyat, spokesman for Gennady Seleznyov, speaker of the Duma and the fourth most powerful person in the government, said of the corruption. "Such facts do take place. We know about them. But we need proof. Unfortunately."

None of the deputies interviewed were willing to name names or speculate as to how much money actually influences the outcomes of most votes. But they said votes in the Duma are routinely bought and sold on such important matters as the budget and the use of natural resources.

Kobylkin said he was offered bribes from $1,000 to $3,000 for votes on such issues on at least five occasions.

WHILE corruption creates an immediate problem, the situation in the Duma also illustrates some of the reasons Russia has run into so much trouble in its transition from a totalitarian state to something else.

In much of the West, lawmakers are granted a degree of immunity from criminal prosecution as a device to ensure the free and open exchange of ideas. Fearful that those who are in power will try to silence those in the minority, many nations grant their legislators a certain amount of immunity from prosecution.

In Russia, the lawmakers have also been granted protection. They may not be prosecuted for any crime, including bribery and even murder, unless a majority of the 450-member parliament votes to lift the lawmaker's immunity.

But the legal concept that grows in the West from a desire to protect freedom of speech has very different roots in Russia, said Leonid Fituni, director of the Center for Strategic and Global Studies. It was, he said, developed in the days shortly after the murderous dictator Josef Stalin died.

Those government officials who carried out his campaign of terror, murdering more than 20 million citizens, were concerned they might be prosecuted for their deeds under the more liberal regime of Nikita Khruschev. From that desire to cover up crimes against humanity sprang the notion that those in government may live life with impunity from prosecution.

Today, legislators say, immunity serves not only as a guardian of free speech but also as a shield for criminals. The legal provision, written into the Russian constitution, not only has created the ability to accept bribes with virtual impunity but threatens to turn the nation's parliament into a sanctuary for criminals.

IN 1999, all members of the parliament come up for election, and there is great concern in Moscow that criminals will manage to win seats in the Duma and earn immunity.

This fear is heightened because of how deputies are elected. Half are elected as is traditional in the West, with their names on the ballot. But the other half of the seats get handed out by particular political parties based on the percentage of the vote they garner at the polls.

That system makes it easier for someone of questionable character to simply give a party a lot of money and then be anointed a deputy in return.

In at least one case so far, an alleged criminal seeking immunity did gain a seat in the Duma. In 1994, Sergei Mavrodi, architect of a massive pyramid scheme, was in jail on tax-evasion charges when he ran for the Duma. He was elected, individually, because he was very popular in the days before his scheme collapsed. Upon his election, he was released from jail and the investigation into the scheme stopped.

One year later, when Mavrodi's pyramid collapsed and millions of Russians lost their savings, the prosecutor's office took the unusual step of asking for his immunity to be stripped. The first request was denied, and the second was finally approved, but the deputy went underground and has never been arrested.

Solving this problem is not as simple as eliminating, or even limiting, the immunity protection.

"On the one hand, it is necessary to break the umbrella of protection. A lot of criminals are trying to penetrate the Duma because they would like immunity," said Grigory Yavlinsky, leader of the Yabloko faction, the only democratic party in Russia.

"From the other hand, look at our history. It would be the way to shut the mouths of those who speak out. Immunity has given some people the right to speak."

At the same time, there is really a feeling that corruption in the parliament is the least of Russia's problems and therefore not a target worthy of attacking head-on. In crime-plagued Russia, where the president and prime minister have both made public pronouncements about the need to clean up crime, neither has addressed the issue of the parliament.

"From my point of view, attention to this problem is drawn artificially," said Vladimir Isakov, head of the Legal Department for the Duma. "The police, customs, privatization – that's where the serious corruption is." (Newsday)

Chinese dissidents sentenced harshly

Beijing thwarts an attempt to establish a second political party

By FRANK LANGFITT

Sending a chilling message to its opponents, China on Monday sentenced two of the nation's most prominent dissidents to a combined 24 years in prison for trying to establish an independent political party.

In a bold effort, organizers Xu Wenli and Wang Youcai had sought official recognition for their "China Democracy Party" in the one-party state. Their group became the first to openly challenge the Communists since they took control of the country in 1949.

Xu received 13 years and Wang 11 on charges of subversion. A third organizer, Qin Yongmin, 44, was convicted last Thursday on the same charge, but has yet to be sentenced.

The harsh jail terms are the latest setback for democracy advocates in the world's last major authoritarian nation.

In the past several weeks, the already narrow boundaries limiting political freedom have continued to tighten as the government has arrested or questioned more than 30 dissidents.

The crackdown has come amid concerns about growing unrest among the country's millions of laid-off workers. Leaders in Beijing are especially nervous about the coming year, which will mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China as well as the 10th anniversary of the 1989 massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators near Tiananmen Square.

Xu, 55, was convicted after a three-hour, closed-door trial under heavy security. He said an appeal would be pointless in such an oppressive system, according to his court-appointed attorney, Mo Shaoping.

Xu refused to answer prosecutors' questions. As part of his defense, he tried to explain his democratic ideas. A judge cut him off after 10 minutes, saying he was straying from the topic, a second defense attorney said.

When the verdict was read, Xu's wife, He Xintong said: "You, Judge, are blaspheming the law." The judge told her to keep quiet.

XU was a prominent activist in the late 1970s Democracy Wall movement and spent 12 years in jail from 1981 to 1993.

China's official Xinhua news agency claimed both Xu and Wang had taken money from organizations outside the country and that they had enjoyed fair and open trials.

Wang, 32, was convicted in a separate trial Thursday in Hangzhou. He already has served two years in jail for his role as a student leader during the 1989 Tiananmen Square uprising.

In the past year, the Clinton administration has sought closer ties with China.

Officials have argued that engaging China's leaders – instead of frequently criticizing them – would bring about improvements in human rights.

Monday, the US Embassy in Beijing deplored the court actions.

"We are deeply disappointed with both the guilty verdicts and the extremely harsh sentences ..." said spokesman Bill Palmer. "No individual should be arrested, tried or sentenced for exercising internationally recognized freedoms, including those guaranteed in the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which China has committed itself."

Palmer was referring to an agreement China signed in October endorsing free speech and freedom of association.

THE China Democracy Party, which claimed some 200 members around the country, emerged at a time when the regime seemed to take a somewhat more tolerant attitude toward opposing ideas.

During President Clinton's visit to Beijing last June, his hosts permitted an unprecedented live, television broadcast of a news conference in which he and Chinese President Jiang Zemin sparred on the issue of human rights and Clinton declared the 1989 massacre "wrong."

However, in a televised speech Friday, Jiang rejected the notion that China might embrace democracy. "The Western mode of political systems must never be copied," he said.

The scene outside the Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court, where Xu was tried, seemed to underscore that point.

As if guarding a crime scene, authorities strung white and yellow police tape outside the courthouse, which sits along the city's main boulevard. Police officers in green uniforms stood at 20-yard intervals along the sidewalk, which they had cleared of pedestrians.

Plainclothes officers loitered about nearby subway stations. Journalists had to stand in a muddy parking area nearly a block away.

In a sign that the government's control of the media remains pretty effective, residents who live near the courthouse had no idea what was going on. The party's grip on information has left people like Xu unknown to the vast majority of Chinese.

(The Baltimore Sun)

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Republican congressmen seek Clinton compromise

WASHINGTON – Four Republican congressmen who voted to impeach President Bill Clinton joined with those seeking presidential censure yesterday by urging the Senate to consider options short of removal from office.

The Senate faces the prospect of only the second presidential trial in history and, since the last was 130 years ago, there is little precedent.

Senators were debating how to go about trying Clinton on two articles of impeachment.

The White House, where Clinton was going through the typical holiday motions of Christmas parties coupled with presidential duties, was preparing a trial defense while at the same time indicating a willingness to compromise short of removal from office.

Adding to the compromise effort was the letter four moderate Republicans – Reps. Michael Castle of Delaware, Jim Greenwood of Pennsylvania and Sherwood Boehlert and Benjamin Gilman, both of New York – sent to Senate Republican Leader Trent Lott and released yesterday.

The lawmakers said they did not want their votes Saturday to impeach Clinton "interpreted to mean that we view removal from office as the only reasonable conclusion of this case." Instead, they said the Senate should consider options that included "a tough censure proposal, which would impose a fine and block any pardon."

The House of Representatives approved by mostly party-line vote two articles of impeachment, each of which ended by saying Clinton's actions warrant "removal from office." The articles allege perjury and obstruction of justice in Clinton's handling of the Monica Lewinsky affair.

White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said the letter showed that Republican leaders had rammed impeachment through the House and if they had allowed a vote on censure it would have passed.

"This letter is a positive sign that members on the Hill... don't believe that the president should be removed from office and want to find a bipartisan way to put this behind us in a prompt manner," he said.

Democratic Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan was less charitable, telling CNN the letter shows "how partisan that process was."

"I sure wish they had said that to their colleagues and to themselves prior to their vote in the House," Levin said. "It seems that would have been a more timely place and time to make that point."

The Senate would need a two-thirds majority, or 67 votes, to remove Clinton from office and since there are only 55 Republicans it appears unlikely that would happen.

Clinton has refused to resign, despite calls to do so from some Republicans. His job approval ratings approach or exceed 70 percent in several major public opinion surveys.

Sen. Robert Byrd, a West Virginia Democrat admired for his 40 years of service in the Senate and for his knowledge of its history and procedures, left open the possibility of censure, but said it must originate with the senators.

Iraq: Rockets fired in south

BAGHDAD (Reuters) – Iraq said yesterday Western warplanes fired two rockets near its southern city of Basra in the first military action since last week's intensive air strikes. The United States and Britain denied it.

Iraqi officials said four formations of planes violated a demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait early yesterday and that hours later five formations returned and fired two rockets near Basra.

In Washington, a Pentagon spokesman said no US aircraft had fired rockets over Iraq and a British Defense Ministry spokesman in London issued a similar denial.

Both countries had waged a four-night campaign of air strikes against Iraq, which ended Sunday, to punish it for not cooperating with United Nations weapons inspectors.

The reported attack took place as a deeply divided UN Security Council began weeks of consultations on the Iraqi crisis, and UN relief workers were heading back to Baghdad to oversee humanitarian programs in Iraq.

US and British planes patrol a no-fly zone in south Iraq to prevent Baghdad threatening its Shi'ite Muslim population.

A narrow demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait, set up after Iraqi occupying troops were driven from its tiny neighbor in the 1991 Gulf War, is off-limits to the Western planes.

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said Monday that the four days of air strikes killed 62 soldiers and wounded 180. Civilian casualties were "much, much more" he said.

Iraq, recovering from the 70-hour campaign, went straight back on the political offensive, calling for a swift end to sanctions and rejecting any return of UN weapons inspectors. An Iraqi official said the military attack had killed UNSCOM.

"We will not accept someone spying against us," he said, referring to the inspectors – accused by Baghdad of being US agents.

Residents of Baghdad said they were ready for more sacrifices, if need be, to see the lifting of the embargo, which has crippled the economy of oil-rich Iraq.

"If there is justice in the world, the sanctions must be lifted immediately and we, as [a] people, [together with the] leadership, are ready to struggle until that happens," said Aziz Rashid, a Baghdad truck driver.

"We now have plenty of time to invest our international standing, which we gained as a result of this confrontation, [and] to achieve our legitimate goal of breaking every shackle imposed by America through the Security Council," al-Qadissiya newspaper, the mouthpiece of the Iraqi army, said.

Russia and China, both permanent members of the Security Council, have come out strongly against the US and British use of force against Iraq. Many Western and Arab governments also expressed concern over the attacks.

The United States opposes any effort to dismantle economic sanctions against Iraq and will use its veto power in the UN Security Council to keep them in place if need be, the White House said yesterday.

A sharply divided Security Council is assessing its Iraq policies following the air strikes.

France and Germany have suggested trying to find a new approach to controlling Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, which could lead to an easing of economic sanctions.

Meanwhile US President Bill Clinton sent Russian President Boris Yeltsin a message offering an explanation for last week's air strikes, the Kremlin press service said.

Russia expressed unusually fierce outrage over the attacks, which it said should not have taken place without approval from the United Nations Security Council, of which it is a permanent member.



Iraqis begin repairs to the Saddam Medical City Hospital in Baghdad yesterday. The building was damaged last week during the US-British air bombardment. (AP)

WORLD
in brief

Iranian court rejects appeal of former mayor

TEHERAN (AP) – An Iranian court has rejected an appeal by the former mayor of Teheran, who was sentenced to five years in jail for corruption. Gholamhossein Karbaschi's appeal was reviewed by three judges, and the "charges and the cases of conviction remain the same," Iran's official news agency reported yesterday. It quoted judiciary spokesman Fotovat Nasiri-Savadkouhi. The Islamic Republic News Agency did not say when the ruling was made.

Karbaschi, an ally of moderate President Mohammed Khatami, was sentenced in July and had been allowed to remain free on bail pending appeal. IRNA did not say if he had now been jailed, and judiciary officials could not be reached for comment.

Schroeder cautious on nuclear shutdown

BONN (AP) – German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder denied reports that he has agreed to give German utilities at least 20 years to scrap nuclear power, but he made it clear the shutdown won't be quick. Schroeder's center-left government took office after September elections pledging to shut down Germany's 19 nuclear plants.

But in an interview published in the *Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* newspaper, Schroeder rejected pressure from the environmentalist Greens, his coalition partner, and others, for a fast timetable.

Russian Communists to approve budget quickly

MOSCOW (AP) – Russia's parliament is likely to give the 1999 draft budget preliminary approval later this week, lawmakers said yesterday, but final passage could still stall during later debates. Russia desperately needs an austere, realistic budget for resolving the economic crisis. The lower house of parliament, the State Duma, is to begin discussing the draft budget tomorrow.

Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov, whose parliamentary faction has formed the main resistance to the government's budgets in recent years, said his party would probably give initial approval to the draft, even though he wasn't entirely pleased with it.

Bulgaria's king returns home for Christmas

SOFIA (Reuters) – Bulgaria's King Simeon II arrived in Sofia yesterday to spend his first Christmas at home since fleeing his homeland as a child in 1946. During the two-week visit, the 61-year-old king, his Spanish aristocrat wife Margarita and daughter Kalina will inspect the royal property, confiscated by the theo-communist regime in 1947 and returned to Simeon earlier this year.

Surfer attacked by shark in Australia

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) – A 21-year-old woman was attacked by a shark yesterday while surfing at one of South Australia state's most popular surfing beaches, officials said. The afternoon attack occurred as the woman was about to catch a wave back to shore at Middleton beach, about 80 kilometers south of the capital, Adelaide. The woman suffered deep wounds to one of her legs, but was in satisfactory condition at a local hospital.

Lord Soper, Britain's soapbox preacher, dies

LONDON (AP) – The Rev. Lord Soper, a Methodist minister who became Britain's most famous soapbox orator after he started weekly outdoor sermons more than 70 years ago, died yesterday. He was 95. Soper had just returned to his London home from a hospital where he was being treated for a chest infection, the Methodist Church said.

A lifelong supporter of radical causes, Soper had taken to his outdoor podium almost every week since 1926 on Tower Hill in east London and since the 1940s at Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park.

First American female combat pilot joined Iraqi strikes

ABOARD THE USS ENTERPRISE (AP) – The first American female fighter pilot to see combat action took part in the air strikes on Iraq.

Navy Lt. Kendra Williams, 26, flew her FA-18 fighter-bomber as part of the attack force launched from the aircraft carrier *USS Enterprise* in the Gulf.

Williams, who was raised in Anchorage, Alaska, was among the first group of women allowed to train for fighter duty, military officials said yesterday. She graduated from jet training at the Naval Air Station in Kingsville, Texas, in 1997.

"Women have only been in combat aviation a few years," she said last year. "It's going to take time for people to adjust."

Women have been flying US military helicopters since 1973, but they still are excluded from ground combat units.

China rescinds order for balloonists to land

By ROBERT BARR

LONDON (AP) – China agreed yesterday to let a round-the-world balloon expedition to continue crossing its territory, organizers said, rescinding an order that it land in rugged Himalayan terrain.

Project director Mike Kendrick said in London that the Chinese granted permission on condition that the ICO Global balloon leave prohibited Chinese airspace as soon as possible.

"We are going to look... for the fastest, most direct route out of China, which is what the balloon wants to do anyway, so we're happy to comply with that one," Kendrick told reporters.

The ICO Global balloon was over Tibet, about 16 kilometers north of Bhutan, and Kendrick said organizers would go to work on plotting a course to catch a jet stream to move them swiftly on their way.

Kendrick also said the crew had used up more fuel than expected to keep the balloon free of ice and was doing fuel calculations to determine whether the situation was serious.

Earlier, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said it regretted that British tycoon Richard Branson, American millionaire Steve Fossett and Per Lindstrand of Sweden did not abide by an earlier agreement to fly over southernmost China below 26 degrees north latitude.

Beijing had given permission for the ICO Global balloon to travel only over southernmost China. That would have effectively kept the balloonists away from the Tibetan plateau, where rescue would be difficult, and out of busy air traffic corridors.

But detours around Mediterranean storms and Iraq and the refusal of Russia and Iran to authorize use of their airspace caused the balloon to cross the Himalayas farther north than planned.

It entered China 400 kilometers north of the agreed corridor early this morning.

Kendrick said Chinese air traffic controllers were informed the moment the balloon passed over the border, with an apology added to the communication.

In February, China withheld permission for a European balloon team to fly over its territory, forcing an end to the round-the-world bid.

N. Irish peace deal frees IRA police killers early

DUBLIN (Reuters) – Ireland yesterday freed from 40-year prison terms three IRA men who killed policemen in the 1980s, provoking fury from police groups and the son of one of the victims.

Supporters of the prisoner release program argue it is a crucial pillar of Northern Ireland's peace accord. They say it helps build trust with armed groups and ties them to their truces after a bitter conflict waged by pro-British Protestants and pro-Irish Catholics that killed more than 3,600 people.

"While we are conscious of the hurt involved for the bereaved families, today's releases will see these men reunited with their families having served long periods of time in jail," said Martin Ferris of Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Army's political wing.

But some politicians and relatives have sharply criticized the process – including the family of Seamus Quaid, who was shot dead in 1980 by Peter Rogers, one of those released yesterday.

They expressed their grief in an interview this week with Mark Costigan of Dublin radio station Today FM.

"We're all very angry and very upset about it," said Eamonn Quaid, who was 14 when his father was killed after stopping Rogers at a checkpoint and finding explosives in his van.

"I'll take it to my grave," he added. "It's like a family bereavement all over again."

He said prisoners convicted of murder should have been excluded from the program, and added: "The peace process is a sham as far as I can see."

In British-ruled Northern Ireland, more than 200 members of armed groups have been freed since the accord in April offered amnesties to members of guerrilla groups observing cease-fires.

Is eight enough or too many?

By TERRI LANGFORD

HOUSTON (AP) – While doctors guard the fragile health of the world's first surviving set of octuplets, the births have rekindled the medical community's debate over the use of fertility drugs.

The babies born to Nkem Chukwu (nih-KEHM chuhk-WOO) were "a disaster" from an infertility standpoint, said Dr. Randle Corfman, director of the Midwest Center for Reproductive Health in Robbinsdale, Minnesota.

Corfman worried that insurance companies may reconsider providing health coverage for women like Chukwu who have fertility treatment. Others question whether parents who take fertility drugs really understand the health risks of underdeveloped multiple births.

"The fact is that the vast majority of these cases [of quadruplets or more] end in disaster, sometimes for the mom, most often for the babies," Dr. Alan Copperman said in yesterday's *New York Times*.

Copperman, director of reproductive endocrinology at Mount Sinai-New York University Medical Center, said every time a case like the Chukwus' comes along, desperate couples become more willing to take greater risks.

A Saudi woman gave birth to three girls and four boys in January, and the McCaughey septuplets were born in Iowa just 13 months ago. All of those babies have survived.

By the time Chukwu's eight tiny children are well enough to be taken home, an estimated $2 million will have been spent on their care, about $250,000 a child, predicted Dr. Leonard Weisman, chief neonatologist at Texas Children's Hospital.

Doctors said the infants, who have not yet been named, could be in the hospital for up to two months, while their mother may be released within a week.

The six girls and two boys remained in critical but stable condition yesterday at Texas Children's. The hospital's Web site described the mother as "alert, happy and excited" and said the babies had an uneventful night.

Seven of the eight weighed between 1 pound and 1 pound 11 ounces at birth. Doctors say that in general, such babies have an 85 percent chance of survival with today's improved techniques for caring for small babies. The other baby weighed 11 ounces at birth, and her chances would be somewhat less.

Chief among the worries with the Chukwu children was lung development. Baby A, the girl born December 8, was delivered 15 weeks premature. Her two brothers and five sisters were born Sunday morning, 13 weeks early. All were placed on ventilators.

"It's alarming in the sense premature babies have problems," Weisman said.

Dr. Brian Kirshon, who delivered the octuplets, said the woman and her husband, Iyke Chukwu, a respiratory therapist at a Houston hospital, rejected the idea of "selective reduction," a technique in which doctors abort some fetuses so others have a better chance of survival.

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A different kind of toughness

The departure of MK Dan Meridor from the Likud marks a sad crossroads for that proud party, but opens a hopeful prospect for the Israeli voter.

Meridor is expected to be joined by former Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. (res.) Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, representing a similar, if lesser, blow to the Labor Party. Though Meridor and Shahak seem primarily motivated by a desire to unseat Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, many Israelis who have become used to voting against another candidate will have the pleasure of voting for a team in which they place high hopes.

The direct election system has introduced American-style politics to Israel, in which the race for the top becomes highly personal. The last election, between Netanyahu and Peres, was more a contest between two individuals than between their two parties, but party and ideology also played an important role.

The next election will not only revolve even more around personality than ideology, but also revolve around that most personal of traits: character. Netanyahu's two current declared rivals, Meridor and Labor chairman Ehud Barak, are clearly focusing their campaigns on Netanyahu's character and style of leadership and much less on his agenda.

Meridor, in particular, has little quarrel with Netanyahu's stated agenda. Yesterday, Meridor described himself as a Land of Israel loyalist who will fight tenaciously to safeguard Israel's national and security interests in the tough negotiations ahead. Like Netanyahu, Meridor believes that the Oslo agreement was deeply flawed, but that it created a reality which must be made the best of, not overturned.

The interesting question is whether the clean, gentlemanly politics that Meridor represents stand a chance in the rough crucible of an election campaign and, more importantly, the test of governance. The public is wondering, does Meridor have what it takes to win, or is the whiny, painfully meek caricature of him on the *Hartzufim* accurate?

Perhaps hoping to shed this image, Meridor's opening salvo against Netanyahu was tough and personal. After accusing him repeatedly of "turning lying into part of our daily life and breaking promises into a norm," Meridor also struck below the belt with two references to Netanyahu's "many years abroad," as if that made him less of an Israeli.

Indeed, most of Meridor's statement was a dire description of the "hopeless" situation to which Netanyahu has brought the nation in the diplomatic, economic, and social spheres. Aside from a general call for "reasoned, compassionate, responsible and credible leadership," Meridor's campaign began with more of what he is not – Netanyahu – than what he stands for.

It is perhaps in the nature of a challenger's campaign against an incumbent that it be primarily negative – more against what is than presenting a positive vision and program for what could be. It is not really necessary, after all, for Meridor to discredit the political style embraced by Netanyahu; Netanyahu himself has done that. The assumption that a certain style of toughness is a prerequisite for victory may no longer be valid – in fact, it may no longer even be an asset.

Meridor, rather than reinventing himself, would do better to capitalize upon the public's weariness with the politics of division and verbal aggression. It will likely backfire on Netanyahu, for example, to attempt to lump Meridor, Shahak, and Barak together as simply "the Left," as if only he is strong enough to resist concessions in negotiations.

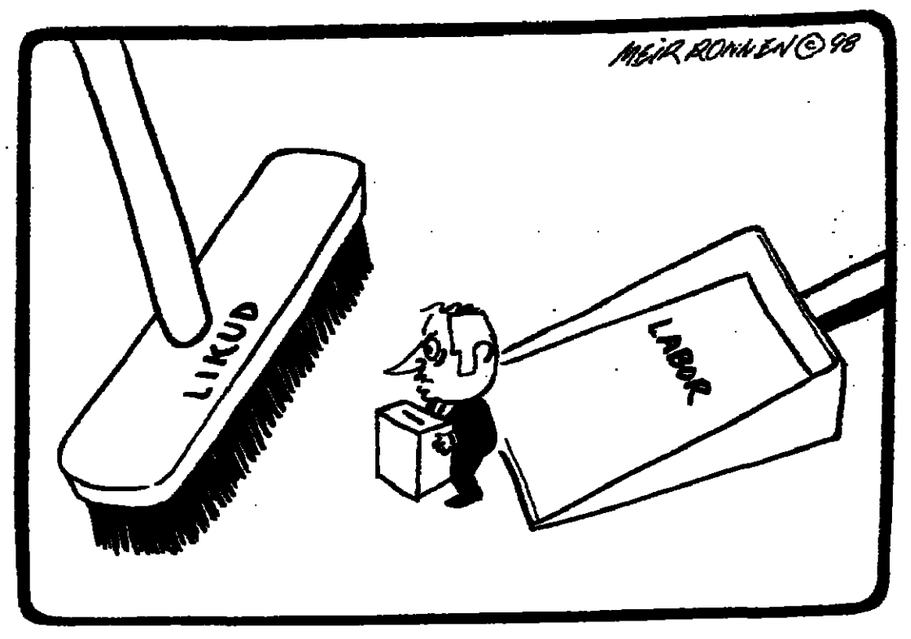
The previous government lost because of a perception that it would do almost anything to continue the peace process; the current government could well lose due to the opposite perception – that it will stop the peace process given any excuse. In reality, neither perception was accurate.

The Rabin and Peres governments gained Israel substantial credibility and good will in the international arena, which produced payoffs in terms of Israel's acceptance in the Arab world and the isolation of Arab opponents to the peace process. The Netanyahu government, on the other hand, tempered the impression that Israel would continue with the peace process no matter how sporadically the Palestinians complied with their commitments, thereby increasing Israel's negotiating leverage in some respects.

The problem is that neither approach worked fully, because Rabin and Peres tended to hoard their credibility rather than spend it by insisting upon Palestinian compliance, while Netanyahu has insisted on compliance without first building the credibility necessary for his demands to be internationally recognized.

Concerning the peace process, the potential behind the Meridor candidacy is to combine both approaches in a way that will be acceptable to a large majority of Israelis, thereby maximizing Israel's negotiating position without leaving either the Left or the Right feeling disenfranchised. On the economic and social front, he also represents a great potential for creating a positive synthesis, but has yet to offer any concrete program.

Whether he is given the chance will depend on whether Israelis recognize in him a different kind of toughness, and whether he resists the temptation to imitate the negative style of his adversaries.



A central question

DAVID NEWMAN

So the Knesset has finally decided on early elections, and political parties, old and new, will be preparing for the looming battle.

Among the new parties that may spring up is the long-talked-about centrist party, which, supporters of such a party believe, could well hold the balance of power after the next elections and may even put up a successful candidate for prime minister.

Whatever way you look at it, however, a centrist party and a third candidate for prime minister will hurt the Labor Party much more than the Likud.

All three potential prime ministerial candidates – Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Dan Meridor and Ronni Milo – will be supported by middle-class Ashkenazi voters, who traditionally cast their ballots for Labor. An extreme right-wing candidate might affect the chances of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu being re-elected, but not to the same extent that either of the three centrist candidates would affect Ehud Barak's chances of becoming premier.

The real threat to Netanyahu would be an alternative candidate, such as Ehud Olmert or Limor Livnat, rising from within the Likud. But Netanyahu has spent much of the past two years ensuring an almost automatic majority for himself within the party itself.

Olmert, meanwhile, is unlikely to relinquish the Jerusalem mayoralty this early in his second term. Being mayor of Jerusalem affords him a national and international posture which is probably only second to that of the prime minister himself, and he may well decide to wait until the next elections.

Nor would Livnat be likely to grab the top post at this stage. But any attempt to do so could well enhance her position within the Likud, and make her a candidate for a senior ministerial position if the Likud were to return victorious again, and an almost certain candidate four years down the road.

Shahak, of course, remains the great unknown.

Probably more than any other previous chief of staff, Shahak has become identified with the Left, but he is equally aware that he stands to gain most by playing for the center, where the past two national elections were won.

Most people had assumed that Barak would fill the centrist role vacated by the late Yitzhak Rabin. But Barak has not proven to be a successful opposition leader; he has been unable to create a momentum of true opposition to the Netanyahu government, despite its many failings.

A centrist party and prime ministerial candidate in the forthcoming elections will hurt the Labor Party much more than the Likud

Shahak will not, at this stage, challenge Barak for the leadership of the Labor Party – not least because he is not a member of the party. If there is a challenge to Barak from within, it will not take place prior to the elections, although if Barak fails to be elected prime minister, he will probably be removed much more quickly than Labor Party leaders of the past.

Such a challenge is more likely to come from the direction of Haim Ramon, rather than Shahak, the former being a dying breed in contemporary Israeli politics – a civilian.

Which raises another issue.

THE growing influence of former military leaders in the politics of the state has reached unbearable proportions. The almost automatic assumption that figures such as Barak, Sharon, Yitzhak Mordechai, Avigdor Kahalani, Shahak, Rafael Eitan, Rehavam Ze'evi, and Ephraim Sneh – to name some of the most prominent – should automatically take the reins of state following their retirement from active duty, raises some serious questions about the nature of Israeli democracy and the way decisions are made.

The emergence of Shahak as a possible candidate for prime minister when no one knows anything about his political views, and when he has had no experience running anything in civilian life, is the latest, and most extreme, example of this unhealthy domination of civilian life by ex-military figures.

It was evidenced again in Leah Rabin's recent statement that Yitzhak Rabin saw both Barak and Shahak as natural inheritors of his role as warrior turned peacemaker.

But in that statement she also exhibited one of her rare moments of political wisdom, making it crystal clear that a direct confrontation between the two in the forthcoming poll would be the best present Netanyahu could have. It would split the center and left-of-center vote, leaving the door open for Netanyahu to win by default – perhaps even in the first round.

There are, of course, still many players who may yet take the field, and other pieces of the political jigsaw puzzle to be put in place.

For those of us who enjoy intrigues and speculations – in other words, those of us who are not yet fed up with national politics – the next few months promise to be an interesting, indeed.

Peaceful parley

RUTHIE BLUM

Amid the gloom and doom emanating from the Knesset and the White House, a report in Monday's *Yediot Aharonot* should give us cause for genuine optimism: An experimental program for conflict resolution is soon to be implemented in our battle-ridden land.

In an effort to relieve the courts of their ever-increasing role as King Solomon, a team of Wise Men got together and last week launched the innovative program, to be operated initially in 10 community centers throughout the country.

The team: representatives from several government ministries (Justice, Internal Security, Education and Labor) as well as from the Association of Community Centers and the Joint Distribution Committee.

The plan: to establish neighborhood mediation centers to settle civil disputes.

The concept: to provide an alternative venue to the courtroom for the settling of these disputes.

The types of cases to be mediated: family feuds, business bungles, neighbor vs. neighbor, citizen against local authority, etc.

The condition for eligibility: All parties involved in a particular dispute agree to the mediation.

According to project coordinator Shai Ben-Yosef, this kind of mediation network has had an 80% success rate elsewhere in the world. Where this "elsewhere" is, he didn't specify. I'd be willing to make a wild guess, though, that it's not anywhere in the vicinity of the Middle East.

Personally, I'm delighted about this upbeat shift in concept. Courtrooms are such cold institutions, after all, in which musty old judges impose their will on innocent sparring partners. "Boardrooms", on the other hand, in which parties convene for peaceful parley, are congenial settings. Like Wye Plantation, for example.

I REMEMBER one such "peaceful parley" in the living room of a neighbor of yore. A touchy-feely former American with a background in social work, he took it upon himself to act as mediator in a tenants' dispute.

This had to do with another neighbor who insisted on parking all three of his cars in the building's small lot simultaneously. Since there were only six spaces in the parking lot – in spite of there being twelve apartments in the building – the tenants' committee had agreed that the only fair policy would be one of "first come, first serve."

The neighbor with the vehicular fleet had disagreed.

"I've lived in this building longer than any of you," he had said. "I have a right to three spaces."

To ensure that we all understood the justice of his position, he had painted white lines around the spaces he claimed to be his. To ensure that we would all adhere to his decree, he had proceeded to remove the air from the tires of any "trespassers."

The meeting was attended by a representative of each apartment. The tire tyrant came as well, ready and willing to remind us that he had lived in the building well before any of us upstarts had moved in and started acting as though we owned the place.

Coffee, tea and cookies were served by the host's wife on a silver tray. Everything was fine until the point of contention was broached. No matter what our "mediator" said, no matter how calmly the issue was discussed, our neighbor would not budge.

"If any of you park in my spaces again, next time I'll slash your tires," he said, delicately sipping his mint tea. Our American social worker, with his special knack for listening, understanding and compromising, employed all of his talents to prevent what ensued.

"You stupid Moroccan!" bellowed one tenant, by now exasperated.

"Watch your mouth, you Persian cheapskate!" came the reply.

And then everybody got into the act. Epithets about the mothers, sisters and wives of the participants were hurled every which way. The party ended just in the nick of time, before any actual punching began.

One tenant whispered disgustedly at our host: "Cut the crap already. We've got to fight fire with fire." Another left, determined to involve the police. I snuck out, resigned to kissing any chance of parking under the building good-bye.

When ours and other neighborhoods countrywide are equipped with mediation centers, 80% of stories like this are supposed to end differently. But even if they don't, at least we will have created a whole new slew of government jobs.

For Clinton, class is an issue

MARITA STURKEN

As sex and personal politics threaten not only to unseat a president but also to irrevocably change the constitutional process, it is worth reflecting upon how the current scandal, like previous sex scandals, reveals the relentless triad of race, class and gender.

As in the Anita Hill-Clarence Thomas controversy and the O.J. Simpson trial, it is impossible in this scandal to look at gender without looking at race, to look at race without looking at class or to try as we might (and we do) to see these scandals as only about sex.

The sense of disbelief with which Congress continues to greet the polls on Americans supporting the president points to a fundamental discrepancy in the man whom they see, particularly on issues of gender and race.

Mainstream feminists and female senators have been criticized for continuing to see Bill Clinton, a man who admits to a highly risky affair with a woman nearly 30 years his junior, as a feminist politician who has done right by women. News stories have stated that many black Americans see Clinton as the first black president, in part because they believe he is being persecuted like a black man.

Politicians and the media may see Clinton as a philandering and manipulative man, but these constituencies see him as one of them.

At the same time, there is no denying that Clinton is the president for whom class has always been an issue. Criticisms of Clinton throughout his political career have consistently deployed class stereotypes of the white cracker or a bubba, someone who can't control his appetite, who eats junk food, who hugs other politicians with little reserve.

The Washington Beltway crowd has never forgiven Clinton for being too Arkansan. And nowhere is this more obvious than in his choice of extramarital women.

The American public is well aware that presidents have had mistresses throughout history, yet they have for the most part chosen women of their own class. (There is the exception of JFK, who is now known to have brought prostitutes into the White House; his class status remains unassailable.) The presidential affairs of the past were conducted with discreet women who could be counted on to play by the rules.

Which brings us, of course, to former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, and inevitably to former confidante Linda Tripp.

FULFILLING the stereotypes of the female sexual predator and conniver, this extraordinarily unsympathetic pair have made clear the limits of the concept of sisterhood (and probably done irreparable damage to future claims by women of sexual harassment).

Yet their public personas are also about class. She may have grown up in a wealthy Jewish family in Beverly Hills, but Lewinsky has low-class written all over her public portrayals, precisely because she talked, not just to her mother and many confidants, but to Tripp.

It is painful to imagine the collective hours spent by Americans listening to the Monica/Linda tapes. It makes one long for Nixon and Haldeman. At least they were talking about real crimes.

Lewinsky is like the embarrassing relative with no table manners who doesn't understand the social decorum at the nation's dinner table. And with her book deal she promises to stay long after the party is over.

Yet, coming from Beverly Hills has also given her a sense of privilege.

We were witness in the Starr report to a remarkably pushy insistence that she be given a job, not just any job, but a job of her choosing. We saw the unbelievable spectacle of a 24-year-old intern threatening the president of the United States if he didn't get her what she wanted. Roseanne used to joke that she was America's worst nightmare: white trash with money.

But Lewinsky is worse, the perverse offspring of the circus of American politics and media: white trash with a sense of entitlement.

The Republicans continue to parade this spectacle on the world stage against the wishes of the majority of Americans. They may come to regret this, since there are some primary lessons about the taint of trash that they clearly have yet to learn. How many more of them will have to confess to their own behavior, like erstwhile Speaker-elect Bob Livingston?

These representatives have become the nation's uncouth relatives, nursing sibling rivalries and washing dirty laundry in public. Despite the fact that his indecorous behavior started this national debacle, Clinton may survive his presidency through his refusal to talk trash, by refusing to talk about sex – unlike independent counsel Kenneth Starr, Congress and the media.

(Los Angeles Times)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WE'RE THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE

Sir,– Arik Ben-Zvi, student organizer of Four Mothers (December 4), recalls that visiting the Vietnam War Memorial helped change him from supporter to opponent of the Israeli security zone in Lebanon.

Unfortunately, he's identifying with the wrong party to that war.

We're not the Americans, we're the South Vietnamese. Unlike the Americans, we don't have the luxury of saying that we are not willing to sacrifice our lives for a cause when our immediate existence is not threatened.

The American peace movement brought peace to America and destruction to South Vietnam. Just like the pacifist movement prior to World War II, it greatly aided the aggressor by downplaying the danger and eviscerating the will to resist.

As a student of political science, Ben-Zvi will find that, historically, the political will to oppose aggression backed by the military strength to combat it is the only preventive to the destabilization that leads to war.

Sincerely,
T. HOROWITZ-KATZ

Neveh Daniel.

AN APPEAL TO THE IDF

Sir,– I appeal to the Chaplain of the Israel Defense Forces, to meet with those new recruits coming from various countries as offspring of mixed marriages who are, halachically, not Jewish.

Serious efforts must be made to open discussions regarding their army service, particularly with those who may find themselves on the front lines, facing the ultimate sacrifice, death. They must be made to understand what painful complications and consequences may result when burial procedures must be dealt with.

This line of communication with those idealistic recruits must be opened and carried on with the utmost humanitarian interests at heart. They have joined us here in the Jewish state, and they deserve the dignity, respect and ultimate in Jewish military honors in life, as well as in death.

Nobody else, (not even their parents) should make the choice for them. It must be them alone, once all the facts are bared.

In order to feel that they "belong," an outreach effort must be made to each and every immigrant soldier who has chosen to put his or her fate in the hands and hearts of our IDF.

RIVA COHEN

Rehovot.

ARE WE SO STUPID?

Sir,– I am constantly amazed at the ability of otherwise intelligent people to propose mind-bogglingly short-sighted and even dangerous ideas, especially in the political realm.

Such an idea was proposed by MK Yossi Beilin (December 15.) Item number 2 in his proposal states: "Israel will express its willingness to release security prisoners and refrain from releasing thieves and rapists."

Cold-blooded, pre-mediating murderers of children, women, and old people have now been sanitized to *less* than the level of a thief? Does the architect of Oslo, by far and away the worst document of its kind ever perpetrated upon a nation, really believe we are so stupid, that we will agree to turn black into white, night into day, bloody murderers into flower sellers?

Scariest scenario of all is that Mr. Beilin (and other would-be Chamberlains) actually believe self destructive proposals like this can possibly lead to anything even remotely resembling real peace.

MIKE LEVINE

Tel Aviv.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On December 23, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that Mr. Harold Beeley, head of the Middle East Division of the British Foreign Office and the chief Middle East adviser to Mr. Bevin, the Foreign Secretary, had been relieved of his office after humiliations suffered by the British delegation during the Security Council's Palestine conflict debate. It was expected that this would herald a new era in the hitherto strained British-Israeli relations.

25 years ago: On December 23, 1973, *The Palestine Post* reported from Geneva on the first phase of the historic Israel-Arab peace conference which adjourned after a 15-minute closed session that decided to tackle the question of Israel-Egyptian military disengagement. Israeli and Egyptian spokesmen expressed satisfaction at the outcome of this opening move.

Alexander Zvielli

هكذا من الاصل

صكذا من الاصل



Find your way from here to there



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Maslulon 99 (Road Maps 99), a series of computerized road maps in Hebrew, by Itam Software, distributed by Makhshevet, for teenagers and adults.
Regions: Herzliya, Ra'anana, Kfar Sava, Hod Hasharon and Ramat Hasharon; Tel Aviv; Ashdod, Ashkelon and Kiryat Gat; Rishon Lezion, Ness Ziona and Rehovot; Petah Tikva, Rosh Ha'ayin, Ramla and Lod; Afula, Nazareth, Tiberias, Hadera and Netanya; Beersheba, Dimona and Arad; Ramat Gan, Bnei Brak and Givatayim; Jerusalem and Beit Shemesh; Haifa, Acre and the Haifa suburbs – each regional disk costs NIS 99.
Intercity disk covering all the regions, costs NIS 299; Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa regions on a disk cost NIS 149; Complete disk for companies, which includes an atlas and allows finding phone numbers and addresses on an on-line Bezeq database costs NIS 999.

Rating for all the products: ★★★★1/2 ☆

Israel is a small country, and it seems to be getting smaller all the time. But when you're unfamiliar with new highways or old byways, finding your way to a desired address can be a difficult task.

The Itam company has designed these disks to map out the entire country for all types of users: Israeli tourists, delivery and marketing personnel, geography students and plain Mr. or Ms. Israeli who wants to find the easiest, fastest and safest route from point A to point B and the hotels, sites and petrol stations along the way.

Not far into the future for Israelis will be the Global Positioning Satellite, a system installed in vehicles, based on a computer and a mini-screen, which bounces your location off a satellite and offers you options in real time on how to reach your destination.

While GPS has already been introduced in parts of Europe and the US, it will take a bit longer to reach Israeli cars – and certainly be much more expensive. At any rate, these programs will be connectible to GPS devices when they are introduced.

But before that new era in navigation arrives, you can sit at a personal computer and plan your route, printing a personalized map showing how to get there. The disks have a multitude of options, and it takes a bit of time to understand all the functions.

But once you survey all the icons and scan the extensive help menu, the thing begins to make sense.

There is even a button to avoid stepping beyond the Green Line; but, oddly, the territories – even the autonomous areas in Gaza, Judea and Samaria – are not delineated on the maps

THE regional disks (I examined only the Jerusalem-Beit Shemesh program, in addition to the intercity disk) allow you to find the location of a specific house number in the cities, towns and settlements in each area.

Click on Jerusalem, for example, and you'll be presented with a list of all the street names in the city. Choose one street name and you'll get a list of streets that intersect with it, plus a place to type in the number of the house.

Click on a button to see the map of the house and its immediate neighborhood, plus gas stations, hotels, restaurants and other points. You can mark the setting-off point with a flag, choose the destination with another marker, send the program into its calculation mode and watch it draw a map. One-way roads that you can't enter from your end are clearly marked.

The intercity maps take you from one locality to any other in the country and do not reach down to the street-number level (if they did, there would be no point in buying both the regional and intercity versions).

The user can request a route at various speeds, be informed of the type of roads (dual carriage, with or without shoulders, dirt road, and so on) or ask to avoid routes with many traffic lights. When you click a calculator icon, the program computes the best route from A to B and produces written instructions on what roads to take and when to turn right or left.

You can zoom in or out of each area on the map or change the in-house yardstick from as close as 1/1000 to as far as 1/250,000 or other points in between. Every section of map that appears on the screen has six arrows in the corners and on the sides; click an arrow and within seconds the map will re-set itself in that direction.

As you move your cursor across the screen, the coordinates of the exact point is shown at the bottom as x= and y=.

The home versions (regional, intercity or the one combining the three largest cities) allow saving up to seven points for stopping or making note of them between the starting-off point and the destination; the much-more-expensive commercial version – meant for sales or delivery people – includes a data bank for listing up to 50 stopping-off points, plus space for many individual entries (plus their phone and fax numbers, contact people, addresses and other data) in each destination.

When GPS arrives, this feature will be a boon to business people on the road who want to identify their clients and reach them easily.

The program can save each personalized route in the computer memory for recalling and/or printing out later. Any street and settlement names on the map can be displayed in bold, italic or ordinary letter.

NEW communities, neighborhoods, and roads are being built here all the time; those who purchase the disks can download updates by going into the company site (www.atm.co.il) in subsequent years.

Counterfeiters beware – illegal copies can't be used because a protected diskette for licensing the disk comes with each package and has to be installed before you use the disk the first time. When you decide to delete the program or install it on another computer, the code has to be "returned" to the diskette.

The programs are professionally done, but they have some shortcomings.

A window that appears on the top left when processing a map is sometimes annoying: it gives advice on use of the disk, but also suggests that advertisers purchase commercial space on it; thankfully, one of the options is to kill the window.

Some of the cities, such as Jerusalem, should have had recognizable landmarks drawn onto their maps, or at least small photos of them included in the right slot. This would have made the task of finding routes and identifying specific places much more memorable and enjoyable. As it is, Israel's cities and towns could have been Peoria, Illinois, or Boise, Idaho.

But otherwise, if you know where you want to go in the State of Israel but don't know how to get there, you'll find these pro-

Being childless by choice

More and more American women are opting out of motherhood. One journalist set out to discover why. Peter Jensen reports



They have been chastised as cold, selfish, child-hating or workaholic. Sometimes, complete strangers will question their sexual orientation, their normalcy, even their fertility.

Do the women interviewed by freelance journalist Terri Casey deserve such societal scorn? Their only offense was this: They elected not to have children.

"What I see out there is a great deal of bewilderment about women who make this choice," Casey said. "People want to look for a pathology and find out what went wrong."

A Seattle resident, Casey has more than a passing knowledge of the decision-making process. The 44-year-old former newspaper reporter and editor decided long ago not to have a child of her own.

(For the record: She is married, happily, for 12 years, healthy, enjoying her life and has a perfectly amicable relationship with her mother.)

The choice was relatively easy for Casey, and she never got much grief about it. Still, she had little in the way of role models – rarely are childless women depicted in the media in any positive manner, nor is the subject even commonly discussed.

Yet here are the facts: Their ranks are growing. One in five US women between the ages of 40 and 44 were without a child in 1995, up 10 percent from 1975, without a significant increase in infertility.

While census questions never delve into the women's motivations, Casey speculates that perhaps two to five million women are childless by choice.

That fact inspired her to write *Pride and Joy*, a book about *The Lives and Passions of Women Without Children*. It is a collection of 25 profiles gleaned from interviews with 50 women who have chosen not to raise a family.

AT a recent appearance at a bookstore, Casey said she hoped her book would help repudiate the misconceptions people have about childless women. She'd also like to give some validation to the women who make that choice.

"I never set out to do this book because I felt I needed to be affirmed, but I left these interviews feeling almost high about it," she said.

"It was their energy, the openness of these women, how they felt they were being true to themselves and their inner voices."

Casey's women run the gamut – from age 25 to 84, from various social classes and parts of the country. None says she regrets her decision.

One of the youngest, a 26-year-old inner-city elementary school teacher, feels like a mother with her class and "can't imagine how women come home after a day of teaching and do the same thing with their own kids."

Indeed, most of her subjects see motherhood as a sacrifice that would overwhelm primary interests such as friends, career and spouse.

The women often describe themselves as loving children, but lack the desire to have a child themselves.

Conversely, they are often critical of women who don't carefully consider the consequences of childbirth – at least not as seriously as they do.

"It's pretty clear from everything we see around us that people who probably shouldn't be having children are," says Monica Harrington in the book's opening chapter.

"Some people are temperamentally not suited to parenthood, but because childlessness isn't encouraged as a viable choice they don't get to explore it."

Contacted at her home in Carnation, Wash., Harrington, 38, a software executive, said she's happy with her contribution to the book and is fascinated by how people react to it.

At a book signing near her home, she said she found people were more interested in talking about childless women as an issue than examining the lives chronicled by Casey.

"People are looking for advice and insight more than anything," she said.

Harrington said she's also prepared to hear criticism of her choice.

Conflict between women who have children and those who don't is almost inevitable, Harrington said, because it "calls into question your choices."

"Think of all the famous women in any walk of life. How many were willing to step forward and say they made a conscious choice not to have children?" Harrington said. "Some obviously made that choice. But it's a choice that invites so much criticism."

AFTER wrapping up a 22-city national tour to promote the book, Casey said it had been greeted with a warm reception almost everywhere she went, although bookstore customers often prefer a private chat with her to speaking out at a signing.

Although no contributors expressed regret about being childless, not all the women in her book claim to be certain about the wisdom of their choice.

Some openly wonder what will happen when they get older, and describe how their decision upset their own mothers. Will there be regrets later in life? Who will take care of them if they become infirm?

"I guess this is motivation for staying on good terms with my relatives!" offers Princess Jackson-Smith, a 53-year-old grants writer.

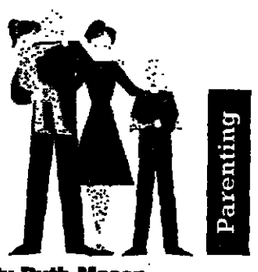
But what readers will learn most often from Casey's women is how much they love their child-free lives. They talk of exhilarating careers, romantic vacations with their husbands, devout friendships, even close ties with pets.

"This book isn't intended to discourage anyone from having children. Its intent is to enlarge the discussion about motherhood," Casey said.

"You can have children or not. Both are valid choices. Both can be wonderful options."

(The Baltimore Sun)

A lament for lullabies lost



By Ruth Mason

Ask an 80-year-old to sing you a lullaby her mother sang to her and chances are she will remember the songs word for word. But ask the same questions of a 30-year-old or even a 50-year-old, and you may well draw a blank.

This is what Hanna Yaffe, a Jerusalem teacher and singer, discovered during her recent research on lullabies from Jerusalem's different cultures. She believes lullabies are becoming become obsolete.

"People just don't sing lullabies as much anymore," says Yaffe. "I think the shift away from sung lullabies began when child care became more scientific.

"I was brought up on Dr. Spock, and I think mothers of that time lost confidence in their ability to do what they felt was right for their baby. I believe parents moved away from relying on instinct and instead came to rely on so-called experts.

"Singing to a baby is a spontaneous act. When Dr. Spock came along, the hours of feeding and sleeping were suddenly dictated. I think this kind of regimentation weakened the natural bonding between parent and child. Lullabies and other aspects of traditional parenting, such as natural remedies handed down through the generations, fell by the wayside."

Yaffe's thoughts about lullabies and their fate began to coalesce when she started working on the compact disc *Lullabies from Jerusalem*, which includes songs in Armenian, Hebrew, Arabic, Amharic, Russian, Yiddish, Ladino and English.

Through her research for the CD, Yaffe found that younger people also had less of an emotional connection to lullabies.

"The old people would cry as they recalled the songs their parents used to sing them to sleep. Younger people, if they remembered any songs at all, were not emotional. Perhaps this is because even if they did hear lullabies, chances are they were from a tape recorder rather than their own mother's voice."

A PASSAGE from the Song of Songs, which is also read during the nighttime *Shma* prayer, says that King Solomon's bed was surrounded by 60 warriors holding swords because he was afraid of the night.

Rabbi Joseph Soloveichik writes that he does not know what the king was afraid of. Soloveichik himself was put to sleep each night to the sound of his mother's voice reading to him. Yaffe comments that had the rabbi gone to bed without hearing his mother's soft voice he would have had a better understanding of the fears that 60 valiant warriors couldn't allay.

Lullabies have recurring themes: mother complaining about father's absence or her own miserable life; a prayer that the child will have a better future than that which seems available now; or that the baby will grow up to be a decent person and look after his mother in her old age.

Who were lullabies written by?

"Many great authors wrote at least one lullaby," says Yaffe.

"Robert Burns, Yeats, Sir Walter Scott, Christina Rossetti, Robert Louis Stevenson – and Mozart, Schubert and Brahms wrote the music to lullabies, of course. In our own culture, Bialik, Tchernichowsky, Shalom Aleichem and S.Y. Agnon all wrote lullabies."

Regardless of the culture, "lullabies put babies to sleep because the melody is always soothing, calming and comforting," says Yaffe. "But the words seem to be there to give the mother the chance to express her feelings."

Haven't you ever wondered about the words of the popular lullaby that says, "When the bough breaks the cradle will fall/And down will come baby, cradle and all"?

Perhaps the violent image sung to such a sweet melody serves to express what every mother sometimes feels: that there are times she'd like to throw her baby out the window!

Psychologist Marcia Levine-Shbiro believes these expressions serve a healthy purpose. She says expressing such feelings and realizing they are legitimate and shared by others can help alleviate postpartum depression.

Yaffe's work with lullabies came about as a result of her interest in building bridges between the different cultures that call Jerusalem home. Her background made music a natural place to begin.

"The lullaby is a particularly inoffensive musical genre," says Yaffe. "There's a purity and innocence in the music that reflects the purity and innocence of a baby."

With the CD now finished, Yaffe is turning her attention to researching the lullabies of Israel's other cultures – Druse, Bedouin, Karaite and Samaritan.



'Singing to a baby is a spontaneous act... the regimentation of Dr. Spock weakened the natural bonding between parent and child.' (Lisa Pleskow)

PESSAH COUNTRY FAIR* - Calling All Handicrafters

Over the years The Jerusalem Post Pessah Handicrafts Fair* has brought artists and craftsmen together with our readers and friends for an enjoyable and profitable day out. This coming Pessah, the fair is going to be much bigger and even better. It will take place on Monday, April 5th, at Kibbutz Tzora near Beit Shemesh, convenient to all, midway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The extra large area in which the fair will be held, means that we can accommodate many more exhibitors and have more room for the public to move around.



If you create top quality handicrafts or have goods and services that you want to present to an interested public and wish to book a stand at the fair, please contact Illy or Judy at The Funds, 02-537-6528 - Sunday to Thursday 8am to 3pm.
All proceeds from the fair will be used to help Israel's needy children, elderly or new immigrants.

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Gardener's Corner



A carrot a day...

By Batsheva Mink

Growing winter vegetables can be very rewarding and now is the time to sow your seeds. Many winter crops like potatoes, carrots, lettuce and radishes make the most of the rainy season – getting by with minimal watering. They are quite easy to grow and generally take care of themselves, though occasional weeding is needed to keep the area tidy. While many gardeners feel that growing vegetables is time and space consuming, if you spend NIS 20 on seeds and grow only six heads of lettuce, you recoup your investment in seeds.

Carrots are a nice addition to your winter garden. Their fern-like feathery leaves, usually chopped off before the carrot reaches the market to keep the vegetable fresher, blend in well with a flower border.

Carrots were first cultivated in Central Asia as a medicinal plant that was commonly green, white or purple. Its medicinal properties – chiefly strong antiseptic qualities that prevented all putrescent body changes – were valued in ancient times. Its roots are rich in Vitamin A and were thought, at one time, to assist night vision, a myth that lingered as late as WWII, when carrots were fed to night-fighter pilots in England.

It was in the 12th century that Arab traders brought the cultivated carrot to the Mediterranean area. By the 18th century many new varieties were developed, and the orange carrot had made inroads over the green and purple kinds. By 1940 the carrot had become a kitchen staple.

Cultivated carrots (Lat. *Daucus carota sativus*, family *Umbelliferae*, Heb. *gezer*) are biennials, producing a taproot in their first year, and flowers in the second year. However, if left in the ground to produce flowers, the roots become woody and inedible, so the carrot is harvested during its first few months of growth.

Carrots are native to Afghanistan and neighboring lands. The wild carrot was distributed as a weed in Europe, North America and other temperate lands. The white carrot (Lat. *Daucus carota*) is found growing wild in many parts of Israel. It is edible when young, after which it becomes woody and tough just like the orange carrot.

The name carrot is Celtic and means red of color, while *daucus* comes from the Greek "dais" meaning to burn – signifying the carrot's pungent and stimulating qualities.

The carrot is mentioned by Greek and Latin writers under various names: Athenaeus (200 CE) used the name *carota* for the garden carrot, as did Apicius Caelius in a book on cookery (230 CE). In the second century CE Galen added the name *daucus* to *carota* to distinguish the carrot from the parsnip.

Then, in the 16th century, *daucus* came to be the carrot's official name. It is mentioned appreciatively by Shakespeare in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. In the reign of James I fashionable ladies used the carrot's feathery leaves in their headdresses.

Carrots are 89 percent water; their most distinguishing dietary substance is sugar, of which they contain about 4.5 percent.

Attempts have been made to extract the sugar from the carrots, but the resulting thick syrup refuses to crystallize, and, in competition with cane sugars as well as sugar beet, it has not proved commercially successful.

In colder climates carrots are harvested in autumn and stored in sand or peat moss during the winter months, making them available all year round.

Carrots require cool to moderate temperatures and are not usually grown during the summer in warmer regions. An open location with full light suits them best. All carrots grow best on light, stone-free soil that should be dug over with a fertilizer high in potash. Fresh compost should not be added at this stage, since rich soil makes the roots fork and become disfigured. If your ground is heavy, a little peat moss and fine sand worked into the soil should lighten it up. However, there is no substitute for proper digging.

Make sure the soil in the row is smooth and level because the seed is very small. The seeds should be sown as thinly as possible, about 1 cm. apart, in rows 15 cm. apart. Cover the seeds with a sprinkling of fine soil and then water. Seeds usually germinate in approximately seven days.

As soon as the seedlings emerge remove any weeds. When they show two or more true leaves (not the first seed leaves) the first thinning should start. In other words, reduce the number of seedlings in a row to enable the others to develop well. If crowded, very few carrots will grow and develop properly.

The first carrots can be pulled and eaten when they are only five weeks old. Indeed, the best carrots to eat are undoubtedly the small, young, pale-colored ones rarely seen on the open market. Many gardeners treat some, or even all, of their carrot crop as young bunching carrots, and keep going down the rows until they have all been lifted at this size. But it is worthwhile to grow some larger carrots for storage and for using in soups and stews.

Water the plot well the day before thinning to make the work easier. It is essential to press the soil firmly around the remaining plants to ensure that the carrot fly is not attracted by the smell of exposed carrots.

Batsheva Mink is a curator of the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens, Givat Ram.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, POB 3943, Jerusalem 91039.

TIP OF THE WEEK

For those dedicated gardeners who do not have a garden, carrots can be grown in pots or boxes positioned in full sun. A large tub will hold at least 100 plants.

Also don't forget – there is still time to plant your garlic plants. Separate the individual cloves and push them into the soil 8-12 cms apart, with their tips just showing.



Heads 'N' Tails



The dog who won't stop chasing the car

By D'vora Ben Shaul

A reader is very distressed over the behavior of her two-year-old mixed terrier-cocker spaniel.

What used to happen is that her husband would go off in his car in the morning and the dog, very much attached to his mistress, would stay beside her.

Recently, however, the couple bought a second car for her use only, and the problem arose: The dog loves the new car and wants to go everywhere in it with his mistress – which, of course, is not always possible.

When she leaves the dog at home, instead of waiting there for her as he always has, he chases after the car for very long distances – all over town, in fact.

She knows that if this continues the dog is either going to get run over or be picked up by the authorities.

What should she do?

Well, if the dog can be closed up somewhere inside, this is what she will have to do; if not, she will probably have to tie him up when she goes away.

I know this seems cruel and somewhat unjust, but it isn't a punishment. It's to protect the silly creature's life and well being.

Being tied up for a few hours in a shady place with plenty of fresh water and a chain long enough to allow reasonable movement isn't the worst thing that can happen to a dog, particularly one that is behaving in such a dangerous way.

As for training the dog not to run after the car, I have seen a few cases where this was successful; but most of the methods used are really far more drastic than simply protecting the animal by closing it in or tying it up.

Most often, however, the methods used simply do not work.

One possibility is to take the dog to a professional trainer who uses an electronic collar with a remote control. The trainer gives you the control, puts the collar on the dog, and you drive away. The minute the dog starts to run after the car you press the button, and the dog gets an electric shock.

This is a method I dislike and do not recommend; but I admit it does work in some cases. Some dogs, though, figure out the connection between collar and car and will refrain from chasing the car only while wearing the collar.

The same holds true of a far older system, which involves filling a water pistol with a mixture of ½ teaspoonful of ammonia to a glass of water.

When the dog gives chase it gets a squirt in the face. The ammonia mixture is not strong enough to do any damage, but it is very unpleasant when it gets in the eyes.

However, it is difficult, if not downright dangerous, to squirt the gun while driving. And having a passenger do it won't help; the dog soon learns not to chase the car when there's someone in the passenger seat.

So, by and large, confining the dog is really the safest and least cruel way of keeping it off the street. One might make the experience a little less hateful to both parties by giving the dog a favorite bone to chew or a special treat when it is tied up.

It should be clear, however, that a dog ought not be left to run free, even if it doesn't chase cars. This is not only the law but good, practical management – both for the dog and for the community.

The Israel Airports Authority

BEN GURION PROJECT 2000

ISRAEL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY
BEN GURION 2000 PROJECT
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MULTI-LEVEL ROADWAY & PARKING GARAGES

The Israel Airports Authority (IAA) hereby wishes to clarify one of the Pre-Conditions for Joint Venture Offerors for the Construction of this subject matter tender.

Only the complete language of the Pre-Conditions as stated in the RFP is binding. The complete text may be obtained by written request, submitted on company letterhead, to the PMF facsimile number stated below.

Exhibit A of Request for Proposals - Pre-Conditions

Clause 10 Item b). **(Quality and Experience Requirements)** should read:

Each J/V participant must have constructed and completed not less than:

- **Two (2)** non-residential projects such as parking garages, office buildings, shopping centers, etc. of not less than 40,000 Square Meters (sq.m.) **each**, both within the last **five (5) years.**

  Or

- **One (1)** precast concrete bridge project of a minimum 70 meters length within the last **five (5) years.**

Both project types - 40,000 sq. meter "building" and precast concrete bridge - must have been completed within the combined Joint Venture.

Tender documents are available from the Project Management Firm (PMF) Project Office located at Ben Gurion International Airport between the hours of 09:00 and 12:00, business days (Sunday through Thursday). Interested Offerors must contact the PMF Contracts Administrator, Mr. Amnon Yoshpe at telephone number: 972-3-977-4464 (Fax number 972-3-971-2956) a minimum of forty eight (48) hours in advance to arrange Site access. Interested parties may preview the Tender Documents prior to their purchase.

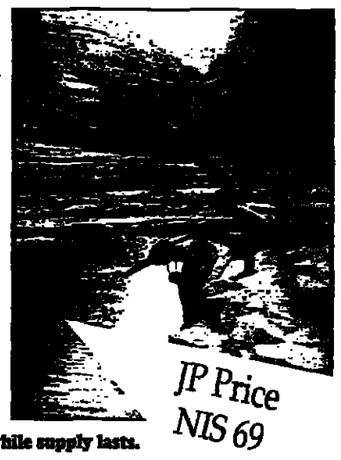
This clarification will also be issued to all Offerors who have purchased the Tender Documents by an addendum.

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No inferno from this Dante

CLASSIC DISCS

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Anyone who attended the concert of the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra on December 13, 1940, when Willem Mengelberg conducted the First Symphony by Bruhms, witnessed one of the most exciting concerts of the century.

But now this electrifying rendition of this very popular symphony can also be enjoyed by music lovers all over the world thanks to a recording by Dante, the relatively small French label specializing in historical recordings of fine-quality sound, which are sold in local disc stores at budget prices.

Mengelberg brings power, drama, bravura and elan to his Brahms. The orchestra sings for him with joy and delight and the result is one of the best ever renditions of this symphony. (*L'Heritage de Willem Mengelberg Cycle: Brahms Vol. 1*, LYS 075).

But this is only one of numerous Dante delights, all presented with a sound quality much better than what one usually associates with historical recordings, and almost with a fine booklet that provides information about the various artists.

Dante features great musicians of the century who are not always well represented in the catalogs of the regular disc labels. Some other exciting conductors one can find on this label are, for example, Charles Munch, whose rendition of the César Franck *Variations Symphoniques* with the Orchestre de la Société des Concerts du Conservatoire from the mid-'40s is full of fire and French aplomb (*Charles Munch: Volume 7*, LYS 409).

Pierre Monteux brings suaveness and drama to Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique* in his January 1930 performance with the Orchestre Symphonique de Paris (*Pierre Monteux: Vol. 1*, LYS 368), while Bruno Walter presents a program of Strauss waltzes with several European orchestras compiled from recordings from the 30s.

This last is not a pastiche, schmaltz-like Strauss but rather a more classical approach to the music, which showcases the sweet tunes as much more developed and encompassing works (*Bruno Walter: Volume 3*, LYS 358).

Arturo Toscanini brings all his magic to Haydn's 98th Symphony with the NBC Orchestra, New York, in 1938, a reading that clearly suggests that there was lots of freshness to this music long before the emergence of the authentic music movement (*Arturo Toscanini: Vol. 3* LYS 401).

Wilhelm Furtwängler conducts Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in a most relaxed and almost romantic way with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in 1942, a most intriguing rendition of this very popular and over-recorded opus (*L'Heritage de Wilhelm Furtwängler, Cycle Beethoven: Vol. 7*, LYS071).

Furtwängler accompanies Walter Gieseking in Schumann's Piano Concerto in a very heavy classical rendition which showcases both pianist and conductor at their very best (*L'Heritage de Wilhelm Furtwangler, Schumann*, LYS 196).

Other Dante delights not to be missed by any music lover are the two Chopin piano concerti performed by Artur Rubinstein in 1946, in a classical manner full of joie de vivre but devoid of schmaltz (*Artur Rubinstein: Volume 2*, HPC127); the amazing recording of Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto and the Schumann Piano Concerto with Noel Newton Wood, who emerges as one of the most original, powerful and lyrical pianists of his generation (*Noel Newton Wood*, HPC106); Claudio Arrau's vivacious reading of Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto from 1947 (*Claudio Arrau*, HPC124); the Beethoven "Pastorale" and "Waldstein" sonatas performed with aplomb by Edwin Fischer (*Edwin Fischer*, HPC043) and a captivating Debussy double disc with many of his minute piano pieces by the legendary Alfred Cortot, compiled from recordings made between 1919-1936 (*Alfred Cortot*, HPC089-90).

There is much more. Almost each and every Dante disc is a hit and at around NIS 40 per disc this is one of the greatest musical deals in town.

A tale of two hearts

By BARRY DAVIS

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," says the celebrated opening of Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*.

The sentiment fits the main character of *The Fragile Heart* – Channel 1's latest British import (tonight at 10:05) – who appears to oscillate wildly between basking in plaudits and a constant, encroaching sense of doom.

Our hero is one Edgar Pascoe – a universally lauded, hugely successful and charismatic cardiac surgeon. Superbly portrayed by Nigel Hawthorne, Pascoe lives in a world of inviolable, crystal-clear certainty. He is supremely confident of his own professional expertise, and performs operations as glibly as a well-seasoned politician reeling off pre-election promises.

However, despite the most ostentatious of trappings afforded him by virtue of his well-earned professional loftiness, Pascoe soon begins to sense that he may not be standing on such *terra firma* after all.

Pascoe plies his trade in a sleek, state-of-the-art operating theater, complete with a music system which dispenses soothing operatic arias while he works. He is so at ease with his complex craft that he can allow himself to be updated on the fortunes of the English international cricket team as he deftly snips away at a patient's internal organs.

The main protagonist's arrogance is further displayed as, on leaving the operating theater to inform a patient's anxiously waiting relatives that all is well with their loved one, he is subjected to a groveling kiss on the hand by the ingratiating mother. While – in true British style – naturally recoiling from such an overt show of emotion, Pascoe patently feels that such gratitude is no more than he deserves.

We are given our first glimpse of the insurgent fissures in Pascoe's "perfect world" as he attends a medical conference and delivers the most dogmatic of speeches to an adoring audience about his unwavering trust in the miracles of modern technology as applied to medicine.

However, his general-practitioner wife, Lileth, is somewhat less than dazzled by the manner and content of his address, and it is obvious that all is not well in the Pascoe home.



Nigel Hawthorne plays the arrogant Edgar Pascoe in 'The Fragile Heart.' (Isaac Harari)

Edgar and Lileth Pascoe are at opposite ends of the human and professional scale. Their different approaches to their jobs are not just a matter of professional debate – there is something infinitely more fundamental at stake – and the couple become increasingly estranged.

The chasm between their contrasting professional demeanors is graphically portrayed. One minute we see Edgar striding purposefully along the plush carpeted corridors of his medical center – then we cut sharply to Lileth on her rounds tenderly examining a little boy at his home.

While Edgar talks of "patient no. 1, patient no. 2...," Lileth relates to her patients as human beings, dispensing warmth and gentleness in administering her professional duties.

One of Lileth's patients is Dr. Manville, an aging and ailing retired doctor who, it appears, treated Lileth's mother for cancer when she was a young girl.

One day, while waiting to enter Dr. Manville's bedroom, she comes across his diary in which he wonders if it was weakness or conceit which compelled him to cling to science in his professional capacity.

Dr. Manville's wife places the fragility of the less-than-omnipotent medical profession in perspective by wryly observing that doctors: "either think they're ill 90 percent of the time, or they think they're immortal."

The pace of events hots up as a lawsuit threatens to bring Edgar's high-tech palace walls crashing down around him.

In a scene which smacks of naught but the best of dramatic armchair theater, Edgar bares his all when he explains to Lileth why he continues to work so hard at a time of life when most of his contemporaries are thinking more about honing their golfing skills than furthering their professional prowess. "[The operating theater] is the one place where everything comes together ... where you depend utterly on your skills and those of others – it's the point of the whole bloody thing," he declares.

He continues to exacerbate the lack of harmony between him and Lileth by pooh-poohing her humane approach to medicine by adding that he adopts a persona of superiority in his surgeon-patient exchanges in order to provide the patient with a sense of security.

"That's where the [patient's] trust comes in," he claims. "Or the control," Lileth counters.

An impasse has now been reached and we wait to see whether Edgar and Lileth still have at least a modicum of common ground on which to patch up their personal and philosophical differences, and whether Edgar can muster the skill and poise he needs to navigate his way through the increasingly choppy waters surrounding his professional fortress. And there's the small matter of a recurrent nightmare....

Evoking the divas of classical Arabic song

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The spirit of three great divas of the Arab world will be evoked on stage tonight in Jerusalem when Tayseer Elias heads a local ensemble in one of the more evocative, revealing, exotic and captivating concerts to take place recently in Israel.

Obviously neither Laila Murad nor Om Kolthom will be able to rise from the dead for the occasion and, although Fairuz is still alive, she will not be present either. But Elias's ensemble will present the greatest hits of these three divas – who have become the most popular and appreciated singers in the Arab world.

Although all are Arab singers, each had her own individual style in contrast with, and complementing, that of the others.

Elias, one of Israel's most versatile musicians, argues that "there is a huge amount of difference between the three in their singing style, colors, voice projection, composition and almost any facet of the actual performance. In fact, when we talk about Fairuz and Om Kolthom, we talk about two quite contrasting worlds with Murad sort of bridging the gap between the two."

Murad is an Egyptian singer like Om Kolthom but "her songs are closer to those of Fairuz, they are more so-called Western songs."

Murad never performed on stage. "The [songs] were all part of her acting career. She was one of Egypt's leading film stars who died about a decade ago, and she used to act with her singing voice and sing with her acting voice. She was really very special."



Tayseer Elias (seated center) and his group pull the heartstrings of memory. (Yoav Loeff)

None of these three great singers wrote the words or lyrics for her songs. These were usually written by men.

"Fairuz's husband and his brother, known as the Rahbani brothers, wrote most of her material and now her son, Zaid, writes and arranges quite a lot for her as well.

"Om Kolthom sang the songs of the greatest Egyptian composers of all times, like the legendary Mohammed Abdel Wahab. It seems like all these great composers competed among themselves who would write a better song for her. And once she died, not one of these great composers managed to repeat his success with new material."

ELIAS explains that, above all, the three singers sang about poignant loves.

"Fairuz is somewhat different because she also sings about nature and uses imagery from nature in her love songs."

In the upcoming concerts, the Fairuz songs will be performed by Elias's wife, Miranda Elias, while the Om Kolthom numbers will be sung by Manal Madani. Both singers will then share some of Laila Murad's hits.

Elias promises that those who come to the event with no knowledge whatsoever of this musical genre will "enjoy an evening of very beautiful original music. People who are not familiar with the Arabic language might have a slight problem with understanding the context but that should not minimize their enjoyment. On the whole, this is going to be a very exciting evening and the first but, hopefully not the last of its kind in Israel."

The Three Great Singers of the Arab World will be performed tonight at 9 at the Zionist Confederation House in Jerusalem and on January 2 at the Tel Aviv Museum at 8:30 p.m.

Sequel butchers 'Babe'

By PAUL BROWNFIELD

Before Universal released *Babe: Pig in the City* three weeks ago, the heartwarming porker seemed a good bet for knighthood as a pop culture icon – maybe not on the magnitude of a Miss Piggy or Mickey Mouse, but a sweet figure bearing a message of tolerance and goodwill toward all living creatures – just the sort of safe, somewhat innocuous image you could project onto any and all manner of media.

But now, amid a disappointing performance at the box office (the film had grossed $13.6 million as of last weekend, finishing ninth its third week out) and a groundswell of opinion that director George Miller's movie is disconcertingly darker than the original, *Babe* is being held up as the franchise-that-might-have-been.

"They toppled the Babe icon," said Faith Popcorn, the trend-watching consultant and author of "The Popcorn Report."

By moving the pig to the city and having him encounter city problems (brutality, mayhem), the filmmakers did more than throw a curveball at audiences, Popcorn says – they stripped Babe of his iconic status.

Parents who got wind that the film wasn't for kids had ways to showed their displeasure by taking their kids to see two competing films, Disney's *A Bug's Life* and Paramount's *The Rugrats Movie*.

"Babe was a loving, courageous icon," said Popcorn, and "they gave Babe a hopeless, depressing, unfathomable hurdle to jump. ... It's a cruel and brutal and cynical movie. When (everyone) is looking for connection or spirit, it has no hope. It has kittens saying, 'I'm hungry.'"

(Los Angeles Times)

We've got it too! Ally McBeal hits local TV

By BARRY DAVIS

Already the hottest, hippest series in the US, *Ally McBeal* hits local TV screens on Channel 2, tomorrow and every Thursday at 10:45 p.m.

Mind you, the show got a good head start, in the shape of multiple Emmy Award-winner producer David E. Kelley, whose resumé lists *Chicago Hope*, *LA Law*, *Picket Fences* and *The Practice* among his better known – and hugely successful – offerings.

The eponymous heroine (deftly played by *Glass Menagerie* star Calista Flockhart) is a bright young lawyer with a problem.

Fresh out of Harvard Law School, Ally has just quit her job at a prestigious law firm after being sexually harassed by one of the senior partners.

Ally is nothing if not a romantic idealist, and she is outraged when she discovers her dislike of Fish's money-grabbing philosophy of life, she accepts the post and all seems to be working out, after all.

But, poor Ally's brief respite from trouble is cruelly curtailed when she meets one of Fish's partners in the firm, Billy Thomas – Ally's ex-teenage sweetheart and former college lover whom she has never quite managed to exorcise from her heart.

Does Billy still harbor romantic feelings for Ally? Will he be sued by her than by the buttock-fondling partner who seems to have found a safe legal loophole in claiming that he has an obsessive-compulsive disorder.

As she storms out of the building she runs into Richard Fish – a former fellow student who, on hearing her sorry tale, immediately offers her a job and a fat salary in a new firm he has just started – Cage/Fish & Associates. Despite

Early elections to disrupt central-bank revision process

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS and JESSICA STEINBERG

With the dissolution of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's government and finance minister Yaakov Neeman's resignation last week, the Levin Committee's blueprint for the creation of checks and balances on the Bank of Israel seems doomed to gather dust, Treasury and Bank of Israel sources said yesterday.

While various media reports have suggested the Levin blueprint includes recommendations for a five-person board of which three members would be Treasury appointees, both Treasury and central bank sources scoffed at the leaks.

According to the media reports, the blueprint suggests that the governor would be allowed to veto the Treasury's appointees, who would come from academia, only in a case of a blatant conflict of interests. The reports also said the central bank's main goal would not be defined exclusively as maintaining price stability, but also would include the generation of growth and employment as part of the central bank's aims.

One Levin Committee member said he couldn't believe any of his colleagues would reveal details of the recommendations.

At the same time, central bank and Treasury sources said the "leaked" details suggest the committee agrees with some of their suggestions.

"We've made it clear we are in favor of a board of governors," Treasury spokesman Eli Yosef said.

Yosef said the Treasury wouldn't comment on the Levin recommendations until they are officially presented to the government.

According to the media reports, the central bank is in favor of the Bank of Israel Law becoming a basic regulation, instituting a system of checks and balances on the central bank governor.

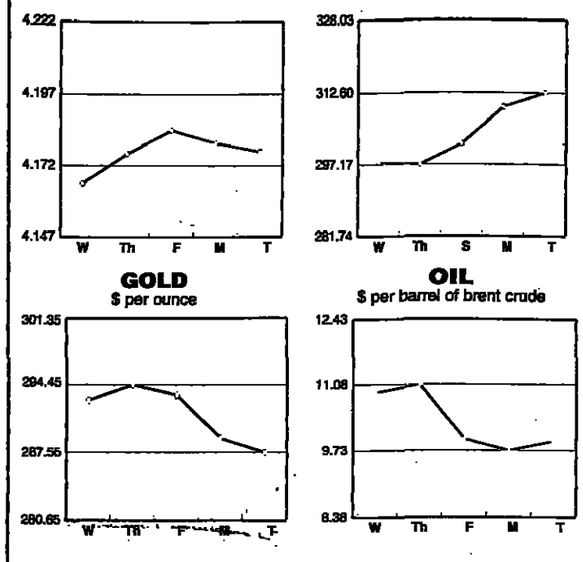
There's also some uncertainty regarding Labor MK Avraham Shohat's alternative bill, which also calls for the creation of a board of governors.

The Knesset Finance Committee nominally approved the bill before its first reading earlier this month, but new elections will probably halt its processing by the outgoing Knesset, which anyway would have had to wait for the Levin report to be taken up by the plenary.

"There's no Treasury, there's no government," Shohat said. "That will last until April and therefore any conclusions reached by the committee will just sit for now."

MARKETS

in brief



Sahar wins $150m. insurance contract

Sahar Insurance, a subsidiary of Harel Insurance Investments, yesterday announced that it has won a $150 million insurance contract for the new David Inter-Continental hotel in Tel Aviv. The hotel, which is part of the Inter-Continental chain, is scheduled to open early next year. Sahar said that it had won the contract together with the Zurich Insurance Company, which insures all of Inter-Continental's hotels around the world.

Earlier this week, Sahar said that it was granted a NIS 300m. contract to insure the Tzameret Towers building project in Tel Aviv.

Dan Gerstenfeld

Pizza Hut to invest $4.5m. on new outlets

Fast-food chain Pizza Hut intends to invest some $4.5 million next year to open new restaurants and redecorate its existing outlets.

The local franchise of the US food giant said it had invested $750,000 this year in opening three new restaurants, which are located in the Ben-Gurion Airport, Jerusalem and Holon.

The company, which also operates the Kentucky Fried Chicken chain, said it intends to increase the number of restaurants in Israel from 24 to 50 by the end of 1999.

Dan Gerstenfeld

Leumi raises $250m. on UK debt market

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Leumi International Investments NV, a Netherlands Antilles-based subsidiary of Bank Leumi, has raised $250 million by issuing bonds on the London Stock Market, the bank said yesterday.

The bonds carry variable interest and mature in 2006.

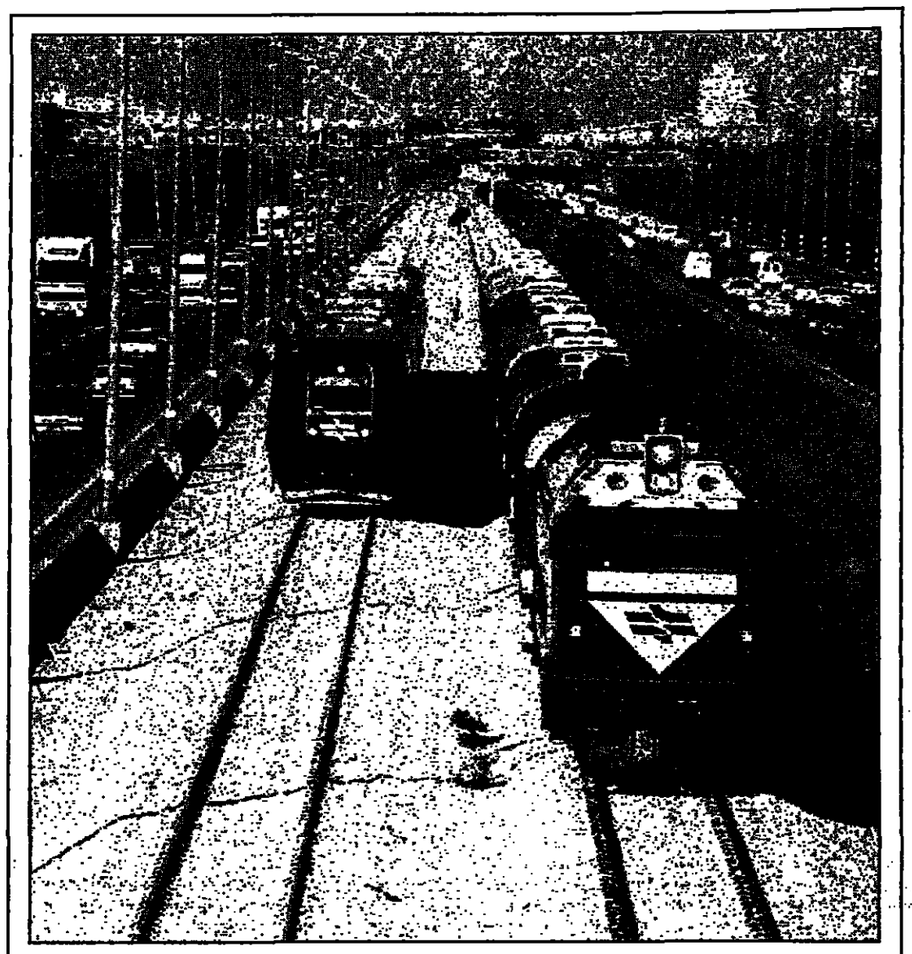
The bank said that the money raised would be used to finance its long-term needs. The issue, which is guaranteed by Bank Leumi, is part of the plans of Israel's second-largest bank to raise as much as $1 billion by selling medium-term notes overseas.

The bank raised $275m. last December. The bank's spokeswoman said that it has not set up a date for the next bonds issue.

The move is the latest in a series of bond issues on London by Israeli banks which are trying to diversify their sources of capital.

Earlier this year, the First International Bank of Israel said it intends to raise $200m. on the Eurobonds market by offering five-year notes which carry variable interest.

Bank Hapoalim took a similar step last year, when it said that its international subsidiary would sell $600m. in medium-term notes of various types at fixed and variable interest rates in 23 currencies linked to varied indexes on the London Stock Exchange.



Double tracking

The double rail track from Tel Aviv to Lod has been completed in recent days, clearing the way for an increase in the frequency of trains on this section and thus reducing congestion to Rehovot, Ashdod and Beersheba. The cost of the doubling project was NIS 83 million, and the work was carried out without disruption to train services. (Text: Sybil Ehrlich. Photo: Israel Railways)

IMF cuts world growth forecast

By JEREMY PELOFSKY

The International Monetary Fund yesterday lowered its projection for 1999 world economic growth for the second time in three months, citing deteriorating conditions in Japan, Latin America and Russia.

The IMF forecast that output will grow 2.2 percent in 1999, down from the 2.5 percent it predicted in late September. The prospects for sustained growth are further dimmed by an expected plunge in capital flows to emerging markets to $90 billion next year, down from $130 billion projected in September, the IMF said in an interim report.

"While the danger of a global recession does seem to have diminished, the supply of funds to most emerging market economies is still sharply reduced, and conditions in financial markets remain fragile," the IMF said. "It would therefore be premature to consider the difficulties to be over."

Next year's projection is down from 4.2 percent growth in 1997, when currency devaluations and mounting debt began sweeping through emerging markets, choking economic growth and sending investors fleeing.

Japan – considered key to pulling East Asia out of its steep recession because the nation's economy is the world's second largest – will contract 0.5 percent next year, down from the 0.5 percent growth the IMF initially estimated. (Bloomberg)

Farmers: November drought damage NIS 100m.

By JESSICA STEINBERG

November's blue skies and sunny weather translated into NIS 100 million in damages for the country's farmers, said MK and Agricultural Center head Shalom Simhon yesterday.

"The damage isn't severe but the crops will be small," warned Simhon.

According to the November rainfall figures, farmers needed an average 130m. cubic meters of water, 85 percent more than the 70m. cubic meters which fell last month.

The lack of rain was particularly severe down south, where wheat crops had begun to sprout but had to be replanted after the rain stopped. This year's wheat yield will be lower than usual, said Simhon, and "we'll have to import more wheat from the US in order to make up the difference."

A dunam of wheat needs about 300 to 400 cubic meters of water, said Shlomo Leshem, director of the economic department at the Agricultural Center.

"We don't usually need to irrigate during these months," he said. "If we do, it brings our costs much higher."

Farmers generally count on the water that falls from November through December. If the soil isn't moist, it also affects the summer crops, according to Leshem.

"We've got both crop damage and economic damage," Leshem said.

At the same time, November's sunny weather caused produce to ripen quickly, slashing produce prices and bringing fruits and vegetables down 7.5 percent in November's 1.3% consumer price index.

That shaved 0.3% off the consumer price index basket, according to Jonathan Katz, head of the macroeconomic department at Capital Financial Markets.

Private consumption up 5% in Aug.–Oct.

News agencies

Private consumption showed signs of recovery during the August–October period, the Central Bureau of Statistics yesterday said.

According to the CBS's data the proceeds of the business and services sectors rose 5% during the August–October period, after registering a standstill during the January–July period.

The data is based on reports submitted to the income tax authorities.

Recovery in private consumption is common each year in the summer months, and stems from increased purchases of various seasonally oriented services.

However, the recovery also stems from the rescheduling of various import deals, as well as the purchasing of a host of services and products, in the wake of the shekel's 20 percent depreciation last fall.

Total wholesale trade proceeds during August–October rose 7% in annual terms, after falling in the first seven months of the year. A 2% rise was posted during this period in retail-trade proceeds, after a fall at the beginning of the year.

EU hires shrinks to help sell the euro

By GILLIAN HANDYSIDE

BRUSSELS (Reuters) – With the birth of the euro just days away, a group of eminent people meets regularly in an unimposing room in Brussels to win over European Union citizens to the new currency.

The assortment of psychologists, historians, economists and sociologists has been asked by the EU to work out why people love money, particularly their own currency.

They then have to persuade them that it will be a good thing to ditch their marks, francs and lire for the anonymous euro.

No small task for the Psycho-Sociology Group.

The path to economic and monetary union is pitted with potholes threatening to trip up several social groups.

According to a report from the group, those most likely to experience problems with the new common currency include the very poor and those who can't write a check or add up in their own money – between a quarter and a third of all Europeans.

Advocates of the euro, which will replace old monies by mid-2002 in every EU country except Britain, Denmark, Greece and Sweden, say it will take the currency conversion headaches out of foreign trade and the confusion out of shopping abroad.

It should also be a great leveler, confirming to Finnish drivers, for example, that they do indeed pay far more for a liter of petrol than motorists in Luxembourg.

But some people don't want to be leveled.

"A currency is a language. You don't change language so easily," says the Psycho-Sociology Group's Thierry Vissol.

For Germans who saw their country rise from the ashes of World War II to become Europe's economic powerhouse, the mark is not just a currency, it has become a symbol of national pride and prosperity.

Even when the currency stays the same, sudden alterations in familiar benchmarks can cause havoc.

Moves in some European countries to switch from paying pensions monthly rather than quarterly raised howls of protest from those who believed their income had been cut.

According to Vissol, national currencies enable compatriots to form a strong social bond by allowing them to trade with each other.

One of the problems of weaning Frenchmen from that part of their psyche that proclaims "I am a franc", says the group, is the public's blissful ignorance about the euro.

In a recent survey, Britons pegged the value of one euro within a wide range of 50 pence to £5.

The likely exchange rate will be around 70 pence.

It's not that information about the switchover is missing.

It just isn't getting through because people are not very interested and do not always trust the messengers.

How then, to get across the message to citizens to know and love the new currency?

Vissol, who has written three books on the subject, suggests training the postman, doctor, chemist and primary school children to help spread the word.

"The family doctor is like a modern day priest. You ask him all kinds of things – how to repair your car, what to do about your taxes – so why not the euro," he explains, adding that a pilot scheme to train volunteer euro-doctors is under way in Italy.

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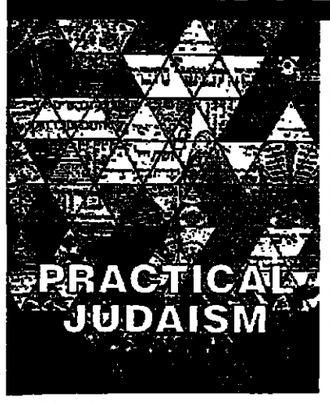
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After the tempest

Financial markets were unfazed by yet another round of Gulf hostilities and Clinton travails

The US dropped bombs on Iraq, erstwhile House Speaker-elect Bob Livingston dropped a bomb on Capitol Hill, and a few more big companies, including 3M and Mattel, dropped earnings-related bombs on their shareholders.

But for the most part, Wall Street shook everything off last week.

How much it all didn't matter was reflected somewhat in the Dow Jones industrial average, which rose moderately, and more so in the technology-dominated Nasdaq composite index, which rocketed 2.8 percent for the week to end at a record 2,086.14 points. It would seem that many stock investors, like normal people everywhere in a world where every shocking bit of recorded history now is just a mouse click away, are being forced to raise their indignation thresholds significantly.

Bomb Iraq back to the Stone Age? What, again? Another political leader is forced to admit adultery? Not even the *National Enquirer* is terribly interested in this story anymore.

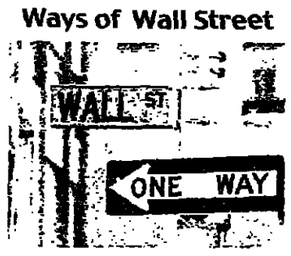
Impeach the president? It's a sad affair, of course. But what does that have to do with the price we pay for Microsoft shares? Not much at all, apparently: Microsoft helped lead the Nasdaq market rally on Friday, surging $3.44 to a record $137.81. A year ago you could have had the stock for just $59.

Still, we know from experience a few months ago that Wall Street can get upset enough to start panic-selling instead of panic-buying.

But it takes a lot – something on the order of the threatened collapse of the global economy.

Tuesday the institution most responsible for halting that threatened collapse, the US Federal Reserve, was scheduled to hold its final meeting of 1998. (The Fed evidently is able to hold a board meeting just three days before Christmas because all board members are early holiday shoppers. How efficient!) After cutting the US banking system's benchmark short-term interest rate three times since Sept. 29, from 5.5% to the current 4.75%, the betting among economists was that the Fed would leave rates unchanged, silently wish the American nation a happy holiday, and adjourn until February. The central bank essentially warned at its last meeting, on Nov. 17, that it was finished easing credit, at least for the near term.

Ways of Wall Street



By TOM PETRUNO

THERE certainly is no major outcry for lower interest rates on Wall Street today. The despair that permeated global financial markets in late September and early October has largely dissipated.

Asian stock markets have mostly soared in recent months, suggesting that local investors, at least, believe the worst is over for those devastated economies.

Brazil, which in September looked to be the next country to fall in the global domino game of currency devaluations and crashing financial markets, has been bailed out by the International Monetary Fund, although the long-term success of the bailout package is far from assured.

Russia is still a gigantic mess, but it's such a minor player on the world economic stage that Wall Street has stopped paying attention – except when someone raises the possibility of the country's nuclear arsenal falling into the wrong hands.

The US economy, meanwhile, is the same old story: The manufacturing sector is hurting because of weaker export demand and a lack of pricing power in general. That's spelling trouble for earnings growth at more than a few companies.

But overall, confident American consumers continue to spend on the things they love and think they need – keeping the economy on an upward trajectory.

Single-family housing starts, for example, surged 5% in November, and the three-month average of such starts, through November, is the highest in 20 years, Goldman, Sachs & Co. reports.

For the Fed, then, it's a good time to leave well enough alone.

WALL Street, recognizing this, is likely to have the same reaction to the Fed's policies as it had to last week's events in the Gulf. Which is to say, stocks will continue rising.

Or at least, that's the path of least resistance for the relative handful of stocks that have been leading the market for the last month and for much of the last five years.

Apart from the Internet stock mania, the serious buying today is concentrated in just the biggest of the big stocks, and particularly those in the tech sector. Hitting new highs on Friday, besides Microsoft, were computer-networking titan Cisco Systems, up $5.56 to $90.44, and IBM, up $5.50 to $171.56.

How do we know the buying is so concentrated? Consider these stats: Standard & Poor's index of 600 smaller stocks has gone nowhere since Nov. 6, closing Friday at 166.17, vs. 166.98 on Nov. 6.

By contrast, the Nasdaq 100 index, which tracks the 100 largest Nasdaq stocks by market capitalization (i.e., Microsoft, Cisco, etc.), has soared 19% in the same period.

It's hardly surprising that investors looking toward the new year would pick technology as a good place to be sinking money right now.

If the global economy grows at a better-than-expected pace in 1999, spending on technology should be strong as well.

And if global growth slows, technology – the great business and investment story of this entire decade – may still be a better bet than a lot of other industry sectors.

Even so, many investors' tendency to focus on just the biggest of the big names in high-tech and other stock groups may betray more underlying worry about the future of the economy and the market, than the record-high of the Nasdaq index would suggest.

A good reason to buy mega-stocks, besides their being by definition the most successful companies of the moment, is that they are relatively easy to jettison if the economic and market backdrops begin to darken.

But what would it take to make investors believe that the outlook was in fact turning meaningfully negative? A Gallup survey of 1,001 US investors, commissioned by brokerage PaineWebber and conducted between Nov. 9 and Dec. 7, asked people to rate eight current economic and political problems by their perceived effect on the investment climate.

A total of 51% of respondents believed that the Asian economic crisis was hurting the investment climate "a lot." But beyond that issue, people were relatively unfazed by the other supposed challenges to markets' health.

Just 23% believed Russia's woes hurt a lot, while 52% said they hurt a little.

As for impeachment, just 18% said that process was hurting the investing climate a lot, while 50% said it had no effect.

For some reason, Gallup decided to ask what effect the civil strife in the Serbian province of Kosovo was having on the investment climate. Not surprisingly, just 5% of respondents said it hurt a lot.

(Los Angeles Times)



Former chief of police Assaf Hefetz (right), who is now in the car business, is the star of a television commercial for Cartech. A small, red, model car is about to fly off his desk and Hefetz catches it in the last moment. Cartech General Manager **Motti Kussovsky** (left), whose company sells car protection services, says that according to surveys, 82 percent of viewers perceive Hefetz as a professional who conveys a message of sincerity and security.

Though best known as the former mayor of Jerusalem, **Teddy Kollek** was also head of the Israel Government Tourist Corporation. He was honored this week by Tourism Minister **Moshe Katsav**, who presented 25 leading figures from the tourist industry with Jubilee Medals in recognition of their contributions to tourism during the State's first half century. Among the other recipients were **Shmuel Merom** from Unitours, **Avi Friedman** from Diesenhaus, **Hozi Amiel** from Amiel Tours, **Gideon Rivlin** and **Elhanan Dvir** from Kenes, and **Israel Borovich** of Arkia.

New appointments at the Nova Hotel, Eilat, part of the Atlas chain, include **Lilach Mor** as front desk manager, **Amiram Sabag** as food and beverage manager, **Yoram Harel** as night manager and **Dubi Sror** as purchaser.

Yigal Yerushalmi, director-general of the Jewish Agency's Israel Department, which operates Partnership 2000 in conjunction with local and regional authorities and settlement movements, is concluding his term of office after almost 28 years of service. His retirement becomes effective on January 5.

A special guest at the closing dinner of the European International Business Academy Conference, held in conjunction with Bar-Ilan University, was Jordanian businessman **Omar Salah**, CEO of the Century Investment Group and a partner of Israeli industrialist **Dov Lautman**. Lautman was cited by the EIBA as the International Executive of the Year. Salah praised him for creating opportunities for thousands of Jordanians. Lautman took risks long before other Israeli businessmen, said Salah. "He was there before the peace treaty was signed and before the borders were opened." Referring to his partnership with Lautman and to the income opportunities this partnership has generated, Salah said: "The dividends of peace are here."

Nitza Bilet, general manager of Lilit Dansiar Cosmetics, last week welcomed **Edward Torkia**, vice president of Shiseido-Europe, at a Japanese brunch at L.D.'s elegant Rosh Ha'ayin premises. The event was a celebration of the return to Israel of Shiseido Cosmetics. Sales of Shiseido were suspended for six months due to the bankruptcy of the company's previous Israel representative. Under the new arrangement, there will be more of Shiseido's treatment, fragrance and make-up lines available at more Israeli retail outlets than there were before. Based on recent figures, the company is confident sales to the Israeli market will be high.

Oil-market victor

COMMENT

By DR. AMIT MOR

Several years from now, historians will have a better perspective of the period that began with Iraq's oil-driven invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and ended with Saddam Hussein's battle for survival. There will be much speculation as to why President Clinton decided to strike Iraq just a day short of the US House of Representatives' vote on his possible impeachment.

The issue of oil – having been somewhat overlooked – will return with a vengeance to the public debate.

1998 will go down in history as the year in which oil prices plunged to a 25-year low, from a high of $22 a barrel in 1997 to a low of $9.30 a barrel in mid-December 1998, dropping even lower in real-terms prices than the first 1973 oil crisis.

The decline is attributable both to the December 1997 economic crisis of Southeast Asia and OPEC's erroneous decision to increase petroleum quotas by 10 percent at exactly the same time. The economic crisis, which spread to Russia, South America and other countries, brought down the demand for petroleum – the market was flooded with oil and prices plunged.

By June 1998, OPEC had decided to cut production by 10%. Together with the cuts imposed by non-OPEC producers, world oil production was reduced by 4% (3 million barrels per day).

Although OPEC has complied with 90% of the cuts in recent months, oil prices continue to drop. The reason: In the glutted petroleum market, with stockpiles of some 300 million barrels more than what the market had last year, even a small addition of oil causes prices to drop.

Which brings us to Iraq.

In February 1998, the American-lead UN Security Council decided to increase Iraq's Oil for Food and Medicine package from $2 million to $5.2 billion in 6 months – a reward to Saddam Hussein for ending January's crises. Iraq was allowed to regain its pre-Gulf War market share, pouring more oil into an already glutted market.

By defining Iraq's export quota in dollar terms and not in barrels, at a time when prices were low, the Security Council unwittingly became a player in the petroleum market. There was no formal limitation on Iraqi exports and the downward trend in oil prices was exacerbated.

Saddam emerged a double winner. In addition to Iraq's increased oil-export allowance, Saddam undoubtedly enjoyed watching the Saudi princes and Iranian leaders sweat as their countries lost substantial income and suffered through economic crises and increased political instability.

The huge loss of petrol-dollars led the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Iran to invite the international oil companies back after 25 years and to invest in developing the oil and gas sectors of their countries. Success could result in Saudi and other OPEC countries increasing their market share well above their current 40%, leading to increased US and Western dependency on Persian Gulf oil in the long run.

It should be underscored that every dollar change in the barrel price of oil means a loss or gain to oil producing countries and companies of $75m. a day, or $30b. annually. OPEC's leaders and the oil companies would have been satisfied as long as Desert Fox caused oil prices to rise even by a few cents per barrel. Indeed this was the case – oil prices rose 8% on day one of the attack. But the cause for celebration was short-lived; prices dropped to their former low a day later and, in the end, Saddam still emerged a winner.

The writer, a Tel Aviv-based consultant, is a Middle East energy expert.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Fund's name	unit cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	yield 1998 (%)	NIS assets (millions)
FLEXIBLE					
Abir	239.94	239.29	+ 0.29	+8.64	12.3
Ader Flexible	109.14	107.79	+ 0.46	+7.22	26.1
Afikim Flexible	215.55	212.93	+ 0.74	+9.26	15.4
Ahrayut Flexible	474.27	465.87	- 0.14	-7.16	2.2
Alomot Flexible	108.34	106.51	+ 0.48	—	9.5
Analyst Diversified	617.62	796.63	- 0.68	+ 10.37	66.1
Apex Flexible	190.56	189.87	+ 0.39	+ 22.36	51.8
Andmedes	101.09	99.06	+ 1.37	+5.62	1.2
Avuka	1943.73	1938.17	+ 1.17	+1.95	5.0
Bloch Rotstein Flexible	—	—	—	—	30.7
Clall Flexible	1157.78	1144.90	- 0.23	+0.03	4.6
Dikla Maanon	258.75	257.12	+ 0.08	-2.47	21.4
Dikla Meizav	183.14	182.66	- 0.36	+1.56	10.3
Dikla Meked	3403.93	3379.63	+ 0.12	+1.23	68.3
Dovrat Shrem Flexible	157.08	183.63	- 0.70	-8.07	25.0
Emda Flexible Fund	3828.00	3818.46	+ 0.39	-3.97	26.9
Epsilon Flexible	157.36	156.93	- 1.75	+0.98	9.0
Evergreen Flexible	116.31	115.37	- 1.29	-5.13	7.9
Excellence Flexible	3297.45	3257.50	+ 0.22	+ 12.64	7.9
Gal'or Flexible	100.61	100.34	- 0.46	-0.97	1.7
Igud Bonds	110.43	109.92	+ 0.38	+5.44	3.9
Igud Flexible	175.33	174.22	+ 0.20	+8.41	15.6
Igud Shildit	147.12	147.12	+ 1.46	+ 12.76	256.2
Ilanot 30 Plus	151.80	150.92	+ 0.35	-1.39	2.7
Ilanot 90	249.50	248.11	+ 0.21	-1.09	21.2
Ilanot Shildim Atid	2538.18	2538.18	+ 1.34	—	5.3
Ilanot Tichar	3315.45	3307.16	+ 0.21	+2.33	68.2
Kinun Flexible	118.32	117.26	- 3.90	-2.98	6.2
Lahak Flexible	757.09	743.89	+ 0.57	+1.49	63.8
Lamashkia	—	—	—	—	5.9
Lapid	1556.09	1556.09	+ 1.55	-3.03	4.6
Maofim Bonds	108.57	107.92	+ 0.87	—	9.1
Maofim Flexible	129.14	126.86	- 5.08	-7.68	8.8
Maritime Flexible Fund	—	—	—	—	10.4
Meitav Flexible	177.50	175.62	+ 1.60	+ 12.56	3.4
Models Flexible	112.86	110.56	+ 0.51	-0.33	22.7
Models Tzuza	101.82	100.51	+ 1.11	+8.12	4.8
Moritz Money Market	146.18	146.18	+ 1.27	+ 10.86	12.6
Nesua Zanex Flexible	2503.54	2491.43	+ 0.40	-3.05	9.2
Netz	81.89	81.86	+ 0.63	-33.31	0.2
Noga	949.79	938.09	+ 0.28	+ 10.01	46.2
Omer Pekan	188.67	188.15	+ 0.85	-5.96	17.3
Ozar Flexible	108.76	106.97	- 0.99	+7.58	4.3
Pekan Saar Flexible Fund	214.35	213.71	+ 0.59	+ 11.42	195.0
Pia Hayovel	230.55	229.71	+ 0.55	+ 14.31	49.6
Pia Kala	994.05	999.26	+ 0.03	+8.88	288.9
Psagot Gamish	572.40	562.24	+ 0.39	-0.63	126.8
Psagot Megama	335.13	332.49	- 0.27	-0.36	69.3
Ramco Flexible	192.16	189.84	+ 0.36	+ 12.74	10.1
Saar Flexible	234.05	231.48	+ 1.43	+6.61	3.0
Sigma Flexible	98.23	97.22	+ 1.01	-2.62	7.4
Shan	266.59	263.46	- 0.37	+1.07	55.1
Telescope	109.21	108.96	- 1.19	- 13.49	1.1
Yaad Flexible	101.97	101.11	- 1.05	+1.34	4.8
Yesodot	3065.50	3011.54	- 0.51	-0.39	30.0
Zahar Flexible	80.43	79.51	- 0.50	- 14.48	3.9
Zion Flexible	12759.45	12715.40	- 1.94	-9.84	8.5
SHARES					
Adif Pekan	115.11	114.77	- 0.23	-0.13	27.0
Afikim Shares	—	—	—	—	12.0
Ahrayut Oil & Shares	145.09	142.17	+ 2.93	-7.75	1.5
Ahrayut Real Estate	211.25	207.03	- 2.09	-6.19	8.7
Ahrayut Shares	309.99	304.50	- 0.27	-7.39	2.5
Alomot Growth	94.65	93.01	+ 0.71	—	1.0
Analyst Aggressive	157.65	153.98	- 4.88	+3.27	51.2
Analyst Equity	1310.18	1279.87	- 0.54	+ 10.15	142.3
Analyst Industries	405.38	395.09	- 0.58	+9.57	55.8
Apex Shares	123.51	122.97	- 0.12	+ 23.38	15.4
Aliav Pekan	—	—	—	—	27.2
Baron	222.44	218.46	- 0.11	+1.35	10.8
Bloch Rotstein Shares	118.80	116.45	- 0.57	+ 16.62	14.0
Capital Shares	103.84	102.51	+ 4.36	+ 12.38	2.2
Chemical Pekan	130.50	130.13	+ 2.15	+ 10.96	5.5
Clall Maof	245.73	245.09	+ 1.36	-0.14	18.4
Clall Shares & Conv.	157.22	155.55	- 0.48	+4.89	2.4
Dikla Maagal	96.45	95.89	- 1.00	-7.40	10.8
Dikla Madad Maof	210.77	209.85	+ 1.33	+0.88	89.7
Dikla Maanz	528.48	524.17	+ 0.60	+0.16	61.0
Dikla Mitan	95.27	94.56	- 5.88	- 22.36	15.0
Dikla Mizrav Finance	119.17	118.24	+ 0.41	-5.26	25.4
Dikla Maof 30	69.62	69.07	+ 1.23	-4.88	28.8
Dikla Mivtah	348.41	345.71	- 1.21	-3.11	22.6
Dikla Moridal	—	—	—	—	14.7
Dikla Yair	1572.43	1560.21	+ 0.70	+0.13	61.1
Dovrat Shrem 100	105.54	103.37	- 1.51	-5.58	10.1
Dovrat Shrem Yeter	114.96	112.62	- 2.23	-8.84	7.6
Emda Export	86.25	86.03	+ 1.88	+1.71	9.8
Emda High Tech	—	—	—	—	9.8
Emda Maof	218.96	218.41	+ 1.53	+1.25	35.8
Emda Paz	179.97	179.54	- 0.19	-1.09	11.5
Emda Shalhevet	161.90	161.90	+ 1.79	+0.95	11.8
Emda T-A 100	2041.96	2035.76	+ 0.50	+1.31	47.3
Emda Yeter	1503.07	1498.70	- 1.00	-9.28	19.9
Epsilon 35	102.55	102.21	- 1.39	+1.17	23.3
Epsilon Shares	179.30	178.77	- 1.73	-2.60	12.4
Epsilon Technologies	—	—	—	—	11.2
Erez Pekan	367.71	366.56	+ 1.24	+ 11.17	157.3
Esh	593.16	581.35	+ 1.18	-3.30	2.0
Evergreen High Tech.	—	—	—	—	11.9
Evergreen Shares	153.06	151.82	- 2.42	-5.25	12.8
Excellence Agresive	272.74	265.78	- 1.38	+ 13.20	9.1
Excellence Shares	646.50	643.49	- 0.34	+ 12.22	8.0
Eyal Shares	127.76	127.76	- 0.74	-5.12	5.8
Gal	119.25	117.75	+ 0.53	+2.84	14.0
Hon Pekan	98.10	97.82	- 1.48	- 12.08	48.3
Igud Maof	96.10	95.66	+ 0.89	+0.57	9.8
Igud Shares	152.71	151.91	- 0.14	+3.61	7.7
Igud Yeter	101.79	101.23	- 0.18	-6.60	4.5
Ilanot Caramim	148.56	148.94	- 4.50	- 10.13	56.7
Ilanot Communication	109.19	108.63	- 0.09	+0.56	53.7
Ilanot Dekel	3133.40	3117.75	+ 1.18	-0.48	91.8
Ilanot Finance	97.73	97.30	- 0.67	-7.81	10.6
Ilanot Globe	—	—	—	—	11.6
Ilanot Maof	208.46	207.54	+ 1.31	+1.51	67.4
Ilanot Nadlan	1444.22	1437.59	1.07	—	27.9
Ilanot Ninrazel	76.85	76.42	+ 1.51	- 10.76	4.8
Ilanot Shares	4744.25	4718.93	- 0.73	-5.12	8.2
Ilanot Shchelkim	50.97	50.70	+ 0.44	- 12.39	13.4
Ilanot Shekuk	909.62	904.32	- 0.57	-0.81	104.9
Ilanot T-A 100	2801.75	2787.38	+ 0.74	+0.35	75.0
Israel America	—	—	—	—	1.0
Kohav Pekan	173.90	173.36	- 0.09	+4.40	92.5
Koor Money Market	136.85	136.85	+ 1.14	+ 10.16	138.4
Koor Shares	94.92	93.71	0.00	+0.93	7.7
Lahak Agresivi Plus	79.05	77.71	+ 0.67	- 11.21	16.2
Lahak Ankor	837.52	818.71	+ 0.37	-3.50	31.9
Lahak Dividends	336.71	337.61	+ 0.48	+ 10.42	55.3
Lahak Menayot 30	97.44	97.17	+ 1.18	—	36.8
Lahak Menayot Yeter	94.63	93.90	+ 4.10	- 18.61	16.3
Lahak Nadlan	128.06	125.83	- 2.68	-2.37	28.2
Lahak TA Wall Street	—	—	—	—	17.4
Lahak Tor 100	435.31	428.65	+ 0.61	-0.13	68.8
Lahak Yetsu	77.86	77.63	+ 0.81	+4.33	34.6
Lahak Zamir	811.96	797.62	- 0.44	-2.07	52.5
Maale Maof Pekan	187.45	186.90	+ 1.71	-0.26	58.9
Magic	268.17	261.48	- 1.03	+0.23	7.8
Martingale Dynamit	—	—	—	—	15.9
Meitav High Tech	—	—	—	—	2.4
Meitav Options	46.75	46.03	- 0.41	+ 10.65	10.0
Meitav Shares	221.70	219.38	+ 0.02	+7.35	5.9
Meitav Tauza	114.90	113.11	- 0.53	+3.17	5.1
Mercazit Caram Maniv	52.32	52.18	- 2.58	- 21.36	0.7
Mercazit Maof	194.05	193.57	+ 1.44	-1.38	2.0
Mercazit TA 100	249.48	248.74	+ 0.35	-4.59	2.6
Nechs Continental	58.65	57.60	- 1.40	+0.51	11.0
Nesua Zanex Shares	451.14	449.05	+ 0.27	+0.23	5.6
Nili T-A 100	1051.20	1037.73	+ 0.17	+1.74	18.2
Omega	120.76	118.64	- 3.50	-2.87	1.7
Ozar Foreign Int. Par	152.32	152.44	- 0.74	+7.52	2.3
Ozar Shares	120.32	118.23	- 0.91	+6.10	6.3
Ozar Yeter	87.60	86.08	- 1.71	-1.76	4.1
Pekan T-A 100	164.45	163.98	+ 1.24	+1.77	60.5
Pia 2000	95.35	93.93	- 1.38	+2.45	20.4
Pia Bdolach T-A 100	1022.35	1004.35	+ 0.65	+0.68	76.1
Pia Manof	132.91	130.59	- 0.10	+0.92	37.8
Pia Maof	201.81	198.25	+ 1.13	+1.26	85.6
Pia Michtol	841.74	826.89	- 0.20	+5.48	134.2
Pia Odem	1279.33	1272.42	+ 0.77	+8.07	180.3
Pia Otzrit	—	—	—	—	35.9
Pia Yahalom	1150.05	1129.64	+ 0.12	+8.85	64.6
Pia Zinuk	64.08	62.95	- 3.21	+0.77	31.9
Pritzs	—	—	—	—	0.5
Psagot 20	88.50	84.79	+ 1.90	—	115.4
Psagot Al	74.97	73.64	- 0.36	- 13.48	22.7
Psagot Focus	110.58	109.97	+ 0.48	+1.61	82.3
Psagot High Tech	—	—	—	—	41.3
Psagot Mabat Lashalom	135.75	133.37	+ 0.25	+4.56	36.1
Psagot Menayot	838.90	833.68	- 1.18	-0.16	141.5
Psagot T-A 100	381.61	379.53	+ 0.96	+3.77	218.5
Psagot Yeter	183.41	180.16	- 2.68	-2.52	41.1
Raam 90	123.14	120.69	+ 4.91	- 17.79	4.6
Ramco Shares	100.98	99.96	—	—	—
Sigma Nivheret	160.87	158.69	+ 1.57	—	3.2
Smodan Shares & Conv.	71.17	70.08	- 0.79	- 13.67	0.5
Singer Barnea Financial	112.39	110.41	+ 0.13	-1.59	0.6
Singer Barnea Shmura	139.17	138.77	- 0.10	-2.27	1.9
Tamir Fishman Tamiha	—	—	—	—	10.7
Tsuot Sutz	152.41	151.03	- 2.37	+5.15	23.8
Yaar	29.87	29.78	- 1.46	- 40.23	0.2
Zik	324.23	323.41	- 0.51	-8.14	2.8
Zion Shares	135.27	134.46	- 1.21	-9.66	2.4
Zion Yesod	76.48	76.23	- 5.25	- 19.40	3.1
STATE BONDS					
Ahrayut State Bonds	475.59	469.91	+ 0.56	+7.65	7.1
Almog Pekan	281.06	280.23	+ 0.40	+4.22	103.8
Analyst Government Bonds	435.68	430.10	+ 0.46	+ 10.76	31.6
Clali Dotan	1328.40	1320.74	+ 0.76	+7.05	6.4
Clali State Bonds	493.45	490.57	+ 0.55	+2.85	9.4
Dikla Maanon	6650.26	6609.15	+ 0.44	+7.84	32.5
Dikla Miviah	1844.30	1830.31	+ 0.22	+9.79	56.5
Ducas	270.97	270.22	+ 0.74	+ 10.27	17.5
Emda Goverment Bond	1160.72	1157.41	+ 0.41	+6.95	68.6
Emda Leshem	1504.81	1500.89	+ 0.52	+3.57	28.9
Emda Sella	1452.51	1449.03	+ 0.71	+6.40	48.2
Epsilon Gov't Bonds	220.45	219.86	+ 0.51	+ 10.87	26.0
Geva	442.02	436.58	+ 0.80	+8.30	88.4
Hila Pekan	584.23	584.23	+ 0.52	+9.21	489.5
Ilanot Egoz	1266.29	1260.72	+ 0.77	+ 11.59	111.3
Ilanot Tapuah	713.96	711.09	+ 0.70	+4.45	35.7
Ilanot Tapuz	1151.06	1146.08	+ 0.94	+6.99	95.8
Lahak Elironi	569.11	567.51	- 0.28	+3.16	49.6
Lahak Gov't Bonds	750.79	750.79	+ 1.33	+ 12.67	165.0
Lahak Shahaf	150.61	148.02	+ 1.05	+9.48	54.3
Maritime Government Bond	—	—	—	—	14.5
Meitav Gov't Bonds	133.34	132.30	+ 0.46	+ 12.66	22.2
Mekorit Pekan	121.92	121.56	+ 0.28	+6.93	19.0
Mercazit Gov't Bonds	164.87	163.68	+ 0.45	+6.73	5.1
Nesua Zanex Gov't Bonds	1466.69	1464.25	+ 0.93	+ 10.56	42.7
Ozar Gov't Bonds	164.73	161.67	+ 0.42	+8.11	15.2
Pia Corp. Bonds 50	260.87	258.82	- 0.87	—	72.3
Pia Tarshish	141.30	138.81	+ 0.37	+7.78	248.1
Pia Zamid	5057.22	4968.00	+ 0.23	+6.76	158.2
Psagot Agach	618.12	607.21	+ 0.59	+8.47	50.6
Psagot Masla	465.48	461.81	+ 0.53	+9.27	59.2
Psagot Madad	802.09	591.44	+ 0.36	+7.14	120.9
Shavit Pekan	775.84	773.65	+ 0.14	+ 11.68	199.3
Yaara Pekan	613.78	612.02	- 0.20	+7.83	132.0
Yevul Pekan	809.05	806.71	+ 0.49	+9.40	184.8
Ziv	680.65	672.03	+ 0.48	+ 10.61	47.4
Zohar	551.19	544.31	+ 0.64	+8.34	39.8
COMPANY BONDS					
Afikim Bonds	358.80	352.51	+ 1.27	+8.47	41.9
Ahrayut Bonds	209.18	205.65	+ 0.69	+5.78	4.0
Aminim	141.49	140.45	+ 0.91	+8.44	24.7
Analyst Corporate Bonds	308.99	303.54	- 0.14	+7.96	90.7
Analyst Money Market	166.83	166.38	+ 1.28	+9.73	10.0
Apex Tsua	156.78	156.35	+ 0.73	+ 17.57	106.6
Bloch Rotstein Bonds	—	—	—	—	14.5
Bond	185.33	184.11	- 0.66	+1.57	8.4
Capital Bonds	160.40	159.17	+ 1.14	+7.69	9.3
Clall Company Debentures	221.82	220.52	+ 0.67	+7.75	2.7
Clall Gen' Bond Rating	110.58	109.93	- 0.10	—	14.9
Clall Zmiva	185.93	185.92	+ 0.62	+9.17	23.3
Dikla Meayan	982.95	976.10	+ 0.29	+8.56	52.5
Dikla Magen Plus	107.40	107.40	+ 0.80	—	183.5
Dikla Maskorat Plus	154.48	154.48	+ 0.68	+ 11.02	243.7
Dikla Melmad	517.63	516.48	+ 0.30	+ 19.37	93.1
Dikla Mivtah	833.75	828.88	- 0.40	+2.73	20.4
Dikla Mivhar	820.53	820.53	+ 0.61	+ 11.39	45.5
Dikla Nigvan	2108.78	2099.90	+ 0.31	+5.49	86.7
Dovrat Shrem Bonds	177.73	175.06	+ 0.39	+5.32	55.4
Emda Dynamit Magen	113.78	113.78	+ 0.78	+8.83	43.1
Emda Halamish	154.85	154.45	+ 0.63	+8.25	15.7
Emda Hamara	1127.25	1124.20	- 0.85	-0.32	45.8
Emda Shildit	108.68	108.68	+ 1.16	+9.47	507.8
Epsilon Corp. Bonds	129.23	128.88	- 0.67	+2.78	23.5
Epsilon Money Market	158.59	158.59	+ 1.23	+ 10.07	137.6
Evergreen Shkoola	194.19	193.32	- 0.07	+8.91	32.3
Excellence Bonds	2324.11	2295.67	+ 0.40	+ 13.34	20.0
Eyal Corporate Bonds	152.83	152.38	+ 0.01	+1.34	5.8
Eyal Shekel	147.74	147.74	+ 0.95	+ 11.43	14.1
Guy	759.81	750.19	+ 0.44	+9.62	110.7
Hafz Pekan	636.84	636.84	+ 1.08	+9.88	—
I.B.I Shkalim	157.89	157.89	+ 1.08	+ 11.53	140.9
Igud Magen Shildit	102.28	102.28	+ 0.36	—	7.8
Ilanot Agas	477.85	475.57	+ 0.28	+9.19	44.9
Ilanot Alon	2126.64	2117.78	+ 0.67	+ 11.51	45.2
Ilanot Armon	142.19	141.82	+ 0.93	+8.81	22.8
Ilanot Conv'bonds	3421.74	3406.66	+ 0.97	+9.47	9.0
Ilanot Eshel	839.94	836.26	+ 0.66	+9.15	90.6
Ilanot Etrog	1156.90	1152.03	+ 0.27	+9.40	54.8
Ilanot Muvtahat	110.57	110.57	+ 1.18	+8.33	29.9
Ilanot Oren	4283.16	4283.83	+ 0.83	+7.20	118.3
Ilanot Orion	191.10	190.28	+ 0.82	+ 13.17	29.8
Ilanot Rimon	592.00	592.00	+ 1.05	+ 10.07	—
Ilanot Shahar	255.27	254.18	+ 0.71	+9.48	37.4
Ilanot Shakad	238.64	237.64	+ 0.83	+8.42	39.4
Ilanot Shkoola	177.77	176.98	+ 1.11	+8.84	52.2
Koor Ammar Bonds	229.99	229.99	+ 0.24	—	32.2
Koor Ditender	102.37	102.37	+ 0.85	—	32.8
Lahak Conv. Bonds	252.32	252.32	- 0.03	+5.45	84.1
Lahak Magen 95%	161.99	161.99	+ 0.63	+6.83	109.2
Lahak Shkalim	102.17	102.17	+ 1.37	—	82.2
Lahak Yasoor	197.53	197.53	+ 1.02	+ 10.16	1236
Malkarit Pekan	347.61	346.62	+ 0.93	+ 10.63	29.0

TEL AVIV 100
LEADING SHARES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Africa Hotels	462	-1.7
Africa Israel 0.1	18090	-0.9
Africa Israel 1	174000	-0.3
Agis	2240	-1.3
Al Paper Mills	15500	3.3
Al-Rov	1740	0.2
Azorim	3370	1.2
Azorim Prop.	780	1.3
Bank Leumi 0.1	604	0.8
Barak	3130	1
Bayside 1	46400	0.9
Bayside 5	227000	0
Bezeq	1305	1.6
Blue Square	5180	0
Bromine	2660	-0.7
Clal Electronics	83300	2.6
Clal Industries	2120	1.8
Clal Insurance	3720	0.8
Clal Israel 1	9950	2.4
Dan Hotels	840	1.2
Danker	1780	0
Darban	607	5.7
Dead Sea Works 0.1	840	0.5
Delek 0.1	11690	0.9
Delek Car	926	2.5
Delta 1	3260	4.2
Development Mort	18070	-1.2
Discount Bank	367	1.7
Discount Inv.	10990	1.7
Elbit 0.003	1420	2.9
Elbit Imaging	4380	1.9
Elbit system	5240	1.2
Elco Holdings	1940	0.5
Elco Industries	3500	4.8
Electra	18340	1
Electra App	2970	3.8
Ellio Ind. 1	2570	2.8
Ellio Ind. 5	12900	0.7
Elron 0.003	6610	2
FIBI 5	2770	1.5
First Int'l 1	419	2.7
First Int'l 5	2080	2
First Int'l Mort	43900	0
Formula	10940	3.1
General Bank	8500	1.7
Granit Hacarmel	470	0
Hadarim Prop.	7790	0
Ham-Let	1730	0
Hapoalim 0.1	788	1.4
Harel Mishmar 1	3390	2.1
Harel Mishmar 5	17000	0
Home Center	4610	1
I.D.B. Dev.	8640	1.2
I.D.B. Holdings	9690	2
I.D.C	1685	4.3
Ind Bldgs	522	0
Israel Chemicals	405	3.6
Israel Corp. 1	33100	1.5
Israfel	600	0
Jakora	755	0
JCT	30	0
JEC	1599	2
Kitan	422	0.2
Knafaim	4500	4.7
Koor	35400	-1.1
Leumi Insurance	222	1.4
Leumi Mortgage	67000	0
Linaz	2640	4.8
Ma'ariv	2450	0.4
Maklteshim Agan Ind.	940	1.1
Maman	544	0
Matab	4280	0.2
Mehadrin	12850	1.2
Mel Eden	1420	1.4
Melleseron	1010	0
Menorah Ins. 1	1978	-3.5
Mishkan 1	53800	1
Mizrahi	722	1.4
NATSVA REGULAR	1370	-2.1
Nice Systems	8930	2.3
Orbit	766	2.1
Ormat Industries	444	0
Osem Industries	1780	0.7
Petrochemicals	2170	0
Phoenix Ins. 1	7650	2.7
Plasson	3940	2.9
Poalim Inv.	11930	-0.5
Pole of Sale	2980	2.5
Prop & Bldg	33100	1.4
Sell Industries	1855	0.8
Solel Bone	3870	-2
Supersol	1005	1.9
Tadiran	15080	-0.4
Tekom	1918	7.8
Tambour	500	0
Telshot	187500	0.2
Tempo	1710	3
Teva	17580	-1.5
Wire and Cables	1181	-0.3
Ytong Industries	997	0.7
Shikun u'Binui	282	0

RETZEF
SMALL CAPITALIZATION
TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Abjac	1.8	0
Abudi	42	5
Ace-Space	91.8	0.2
Ackerstein Bond B	179	0
Ackerstein Ind.	465	0.2
Ackerstein Zvi 1	1750	5
Ackerstein Zvi 5	8250	0
adakom	0	0
Adanim	302000	-6.5
Adler	120	0
Adshs	108	0
Adsorim	922	0
Africa Hotels Bond B	98.9	0.9
Africa Hotels Warrant 2	59.9	3.5
Africa Israel Hotels Bond A	141	-0.7
Afsek Ind	974	0
Agis Warrant 3	0	0
Agis Warrant 4	275	0
Agisk Int'l	369	0
Agri Investments	506	0
Al-Ben	150	0
Al-Ben Bond A	127	0
Alhe c2	101.8	0.4
Alhe w6	106.4	-10
Allbronz	599	6
Alon	255	0
Alony-Hetz	515	1.8
Alony-Hetz Bond A	207	9.5
Alrod	217	0
Alrod Warrant 1	3	0
Alrov Bond D	83	-1.2
Alrov Warrant 5	70	-28.5
Alumir	260	0
Alumit	1030	0
Amigrat	170.4	-0.4
Amitec	181.5	0
Anumit Warrant 1	58	0
Annet	620	-1.6
Ampa Investments	122000	0
Analyst EMS	685	0
Angel Trade	41.4	-10
Angel Trade Bond A	160	0
Angel Trade Bond B	120	0
Angel Trade Bond C	84	0
Apcom	795	2.7
Apcom warrant 1	221	8.3
Applicom	2600	7
Arasell Warrant 2	340	0
Arad	1470	0
Arad Yovels	1330	2.9
Arazim	78.1	18
Arazim Bond 1	290	0
Argamon	159	-3.2
Arieden	1360	0
Arpal	213	0
Aryt	98	1
Ashkelon Plywood	460	0
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 1	284	0
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 2	167.9	0
Ashtel	420	0
Ashtel Bond A	185	-0.1
Ashot	249	-2.4
Ashot Bond A	188	0
Ashpara	85	7.5
Ashtrom Bond 1	180.1	0
Ashtrom Bond 2	165	0
Ashtrom Ind.	539	0
Ashtrom Prop.	190	0
Astrom P Bond 1	99.5	0
Astrom p warrant a	19	0
Astrum Bond C	105.7	0.2
Astrum Warrant 2	45	0
Atkon	91	0
Atmor	1194	0
ATX	188	0
ATX Bond A	0	0
Atzmon	157	0
Aura	4570	3.4
Avanir	2600	8.1
Avanir Bond A	163.3	0
Averbuch Formica	620	0
Aviv	409	0
Aviv Bond 1	157	0
Aviv Bond 2	90	0
Avnar	4.7	-2.1
Avrot Bond 2	95	0
Avrot Warrant 2	37	0
Ayalon	840	7.7
Azimuth	447	0
Azorim Properties Bond 3	186	0.2
Azorim Warrant 13	430	-2.3
Azorim Warrant 5	105.1	0.1
Azorim Warrant A	380	-4.8
Azorim Warrant B	585	0
Badash Bond 1	33	0
Baldi	292	0
Balentine 1	143.5	0
Balentine Bond A	135	0
Balron	3700	0
Bama'asaf	850	0
Bama'asaf Bond A	159	0
Bar	519	0
Bar Bond A	160	0
Barad	239	0
Baranowitz	826	0
Barkan	350	-0.9
Barsel	139.5	0
Bartal	199	0
Baumol Moshe	163.5	0
BaySide Bond 2	94.6	0.1
BaySide Warrant D	1535	0
Beit Shemesh	1260	-0.8
Belmon	340	0
Ben Yakar Bond A	186	1.6
Ben Yakar Bond B	86	-1.1
Ben Yakar Gel	4300	0
Berman	140	0
Bezek Bond 3	128.6	1.9
Bezek Warrant Bond 3	302	2.7
Bilu	1700	0
Bilu Bond A	170.1	0
Binar	279	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Bir	262	0
Bolos Bond B	78	0
bolos gad warrant 1	35	0
Bonel Tichon	460	0
Bonjour	520	0
Boulous Brothers	146.8	4.1
Boulous Brothers Bond 1	264	0
Boulous GD	395	18.2
Boulous GD Bond A	144	-0.7
Brand	84	0
Brill	59.4	20
Brok Side	13.8	0
Brosh	122	0
Building Bank	1440	0
Building Resou.	4300	0
C Holdings	334	0
C Holdings Bond 5	48.1	0
Casstrez 1	5900	-1.8
Caviel	4320	1.2
Capital	900	0
Capital Bond A	122	0
Caprice	295	1.7
Cargal	609	0
Carmel	520	-1.9
Carmiel	480	6
Castro	535	9.6
Catalana 1	360	0
CDI	188	7.4
Cemantacal Bond A	49.8	3.7
Cemantcal	200	0
Centire	140	0
Centire Bond 1	149	0
Chams	2355	-1.3
Cheyun Computers	175	0
Chemipal	416	2.7
Chim-Nir	330	0
CI Systems	130.2	0
Cidab	162	0
Clal Computers	6750	-1.3
Clal Retail	45000	0
Cohen Beni	167.4	0
Cohen Dev.	139.6	0
Cohen MM	130	0
Cold Storage 1	1737	-1
Cold Storage 5	8920	-3
Cold Storage and Supply Bond 1	0	0
Compi	158	1.9
Compi Warrant 1	24	0
Computite	240	-4
Comtech	400	0
Comtrans	788	0
Contal	1272	11.9
Contractors	21800	0
Coral Beach	788	0
Credit Line	3.4	0
Credit Lines Bond A	33	0
Cyclone 1	2640	0
Cyclone Bond 1	272	0
Cyclone Bond 2	168	0
Dafron	1545	0
Dafron Bond 1	274	0
Dafin	1.1	0
Dan Rent-A-Car	735	0
Dan Rent-A-Car Bond A	165.8	0.5
Danber 1	4660	0
Danber 5	9900	-0.9
Danber Bond A	266	0
Danber Resources	4450	-1.1
Danber Resources Bond B	176.5	0
Danber Tech.	5000	3.7
Danber Technologies Bond A	167	0
Danel	88	29.1
Danel Bond A	90.3	-0.6
Danel Personnel	1791	0.2
Danel Warrant 2	185	0
Dankner Bond 1	221	-0.5
Dankner Bond 2	148	0
Dankner Bond 3	93	0.5
Dankner Warrant C	450	0
Danly	535	0
Darad	113	0
DARBAN BOND 2	101.5	0.8
Darban Bond A	240	0
Darban Warrant 3	62.8	4.7
Darsa	147	0
Darkon	300	0
Dash Investment	770	0
Data	877	0
Decision Systems	248	0
Degem Systems	398	0
Delek Drillings	17.1	7.5
Delek Oil	1370	0
Destiny	736	0
Digal	424	0
Dimon1	1340	0
Dolev	275	-1.1
Dolev Bond A	144	0
Dolev warrant 1	18.9	0
Domicar	542	0
Dominar Bond	169	-1.7
Dor Berger	350	8
Dor Chem	339	0
Dor Energy	1211	-8.9
Dorc wt	40.9	0
Dorsa	50.6	0
Dorl gt	102.5	0
Dori Engineering	489	0
Dori Engineering Bond A	141.1	0
Dowat Bond A	147.5	0.3
Dowat Sham	1245	0.6
DSL	575	0
Dubek M	4.8	2.1
Dubek S	5.3	0
Duntlz	230	0
DYG Industries	405	0
E & M Computing	1250	13.6
Edgar Alberd	41	0
Edgar Industries	220	20.9
Edgar Inv. Bond C	91.4	2.2
Edgar Inv. Warrant 5	18.5	14.9
Efter Bond A	98	0
Einl	135	0
Eitam	368	0
Elronean	3100	5.1
El Bad	2070	5.5
El Oanit	435	0
El Oanit Bond 1	173.8	0
Elad	431	-1.8
Elad Bond A	176	0
Elad Bond B	150	0
Elad c3	73.4	-0.5
Elad w5	28	0
Elbit Computers Bond B	135.4	0
Elden Tech.	195	2.6
Electronics Line	534	0
Elgar	6300	1.1
Elitech Ind.	868	-1.3
Elitsm	265	-4.6
Elite	306	-10
Elite Bond A	143	0
Elron	4690	2.9
Emek	119	0
Emyle	820	2.5
Engel Const.	470	-6
ESE	1770	-3.8
Eshed Robotech	180	0
Even	440	0.5
Evergreen	3350	0
Evrois Warrant 1	1555	0
Excelence	1421	-8.9
Export Inv.	788	0.6
Extra	98	0
Feldman	69.5	-9.6
Feldman Bond A	158	0
Feldman Ind.	250	0
Feldman Warrant 3	3	0
Fauchwanger 1	7890	2.9
Fauchtwanger 5	38900	4.3
Fidelis	1950	0
Five J Jewelers	371	0
Five J Jewelers Bond 2	158.2	0.5
Formics Source	110	0
Fruterom	380	0.3
Gahelet	12550	0.7
Galcom	120	6.3
Galkan	1250	13.8
Gama	141	0
Gamatronic	850	0
Gambit	3430	-0.3
Gen ShmoelBond A	116.9	0.1
Gen ShmoelWarrant 3	469	-1.1
Gen Shmuel	1448	1.3
Genal Hardar	480	0
Gep Development	135.5	0
Gep Holdings	180.5	-5
Gep Warrant 2	4.9	145
Gezit	850	1.6
Gezit Bond C	140.5	0
Gibor Bond 1	65	0
Gibor Bond A	88	1.7
Gibor Sabrina	62	0
Gibor Sport	778	6.4
Gibor Warrant 2	103.9	0
Gilbos	76.2	0
Gilo	189	0
Gilsek	1688	1.1
Givot Olam Oil	124.1	-2.3
Glob Rit	825	2.2
Golan	380	0
Gold	222	0
Golden House	512	0
Golden House Bond 1	260	0
Golec	206	0
Gramit Bond	157.8	-0.1
Grand Bond 2	163.5	0
Green Software	163.3	0
Greenberg	1300	-3
H. Electronics	49.2	0
H. Mer	840	0
Habas	3480	0
Habas Bond 1	147	0
Hadar 1	28800	0.3
Hadar 5	94800	0
Hader Ins. 1	879	1.8
Hader Ins. 5	3120	0.6
Hadarim Bond1	122	-0.2
Hadarim Warrant	989	4.1
Hagal	359	0
Hagal Bond B	163.2	0
Hainekor	198.8	-11.9
Hanal	8.5	2.4
Haoln Esh	1080	0
Haoom	295	0
Hashof 1	209	0
Hashof Bond A	145.2	0
Hayal	1200	0
Hayal Bond2	119.9	19.9
Hayal Warrant 1	77.7	0.9
Hed Arzi Music	340	12.2
Hiron 1	8670	0
Hiron 5	39500	0
HL Service Bond 2	181	0
HL Service Bond 3	160.6	2
HL Services	1451	0
Hod	116.9	0
Hol	850	0
Hold	157	-3.1
Hydrofos	97.9	0
IBS Industries	264	-10.2
IBS Warrant 1	30	0
Ilan Gat	118	0
Ilan Gat Bond A	157	0
ILDC Bond 6	269	0
ILDC Hotels	287	-1.7
ILDC Hotels Bond 1	184.1	-0.1
ILDC Hotels Warrant 2	74.5	0
ILDC Insurance	325	-0.8
ILDC Insurance Bond A	146	0
Imco	793	0
Ind Bld Warrant 3	15.3	-4.4
Ind Bldgs Rt	2.7	-8.8
Ind.Dev.Bank C	348	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC	3530	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC 1	3480	0
Ind.Dev.Bank Pref	1420	1.1
Independence Mort	73000	2.4

	LAST	CHANGE*
Interrooms	824	0
Intergamma 1	2790	0
Intergamma 5	12000	0
Investech	827	10
Iscal	970	-1
Ispro	4870	1.1
Isracolor	336	0
Israel Corp. 5	143000	0
Israel Lighterage Bond 3	145	0
Israel Wire & Cables Bond C	191	-1
Isralom	855	0
Isralom Bond C	88.2	0
Israroo	3	-9.2
Isras 1	6790	0
Isras 5	29300	0
Issas Bond A	274	0
ISTA LINES	2280	0
Itay	1750	0
Itay Bond 1	81.5	0.1
Itay Warrant 1	390	0
Jelora Bond A	171.3	0
Jeyecor	155	0
Jeysour Bond A	118	0
JSC Bond B	97.5	0
Jerusalem Mort	190	0
Jerusalem Mortgage Bond 16	172.5	0
Jounesco	30.2	0
JOEL	65	0
JOEL Bond 1A	240	0
JOEL Bond 2	137	0.6
JOEL Bond A	241	9
JOEL Warrant 3	2.8	-9.4
Kadmanl	104	-1
Kadoori	715	0
kadstoc bond b	92.5	-1.6
kadtoc warrant 1	81	0
Kafir	1196	-2.5
Kallalit Bond A	92.3	-0.2
Kallalit warrant 2	164	-0.5
Kamour	320	0
Kamour Bond G	137	0
Kanwept	999	0.9
Kanel Warrant G	1	0
Kanicel	90	0
Kanicel Bond A	42.7	0
Kardan 1	475	0
Kardan 5	2200	0
Katz	126	0
Katz Bond A	64	0
Kedem Chemicals	3180	-6.5
Kenilex	455	0
Kesher	820	0
Kesher Bond A	160	0
Keter	500	-7.7
Kind	15.7	0
Kind Bond A	37	0
King	220	0
Kinneret	189	0
Kesh Kirur	270	3
Kishorat Yeuta	1192	0
Kitai	220	0
Kitai Bond A	185	0
Kitai Bond A	108	0
Kill Ind. 5	8100	0
Koor Bond 5	146.7	-0.5
Kopel	323	3.2
Kopel Bond 1	276	0
La Nationale Bond A	150.9	0
La Nationale Pref	120	0
Lachish	1650	3.1
Lamont	810	0
Lapidot Oil Exploration	1	0
Lapidot Oil Explorers	82.3	-9.7
Lasers	372	1.9
Laviav	670	0
Lazrick Bldg	450	7.4
Lazrick Comm Ctre	138	-3.5
Lazrick Commercial Centres Bond 146		0
Lazrick Ind Bldgs	293	0
Lazrick Industrial Bldgs. Bond A 144.8		0
Leadar	999	-1.3
Lego	409	0
Leumi Warrant 5	46.1	0.7
Leventhal	660	0
Levi	512	0
Levi Bond A	144.5	0
Levi Bond B	91.1	0
Levi Warrant 2	35	19.9
Levinstein Bond A	172	83
Levinstein Warrant 2	950	58.9
Levinstein	2500	76.1
Liber	390	0
Lidan	1282	0
Lilahir 1	125	0.2
Lilahir 6	437	9
Lipad	297	0
Lipad Bond 1	150	0
Lightsverge 1	574	10
LMS	270	0
Lipman	2970	6.1
Lipski	3360	0
Lipski Bond A	182	0
Lisaz Bond A	148.9	2.8
Loden	98.8	5.2
Lorbda 1	1295	0
Lorbda 4	4380	0
Lshot Gadl	22.7	0
Lshot Gadl Bond 1	148	0
Lumir	2870	0
Ma'ariv Bond A	132.7	0
Maabarot	1064	2
Maspell	510	0
Maspell Bond A	142	0.6
Maspell Bond B	139.9	3.2
Maspell Bond C	77	4.1
Maspell Warrant 3	30	0
Medi	372	4.5
Magara	117	12.115
Magam Bond A	180	0
Magam Bond B	130.2	0
Magav	150	0
Magma	240	0
Magor 1	1600	0
Magor 5	8500	0
Magor hldgs. Bond B	83	0
Magor hldgs. Warrant 2	379	0
Maki	279	0
Malla	66	0
Malta	427	9.8
Man	77	0
Man Bond A	239	0
Mantur	30	0
Marathon	85	0
Marathon Insured	102.9	-0.1
Marlo Lazrick Constr. Bond 1	176.5	0
Marlo Lazrick Constr. Bond 2	158.1	0
Maritime Bank	1364	0.1
Maritime Bank Bond B	164.5	0
Mashav	802	-4
Mashbir	510	0
Mashov	379	1.3
Mashov	82	0
Matam	1304	-4.1
Matav Warrant 1	1027	-0.2
Maxima 1	362	0
Maxima 5	1402	0
Maxpak	702	0
Med. Hotels	53	-8.6
Mediechnica	478	0.6
Mediechnica Bond A	147	0
Mediechnica Bond B	85.3	0
Mediechnica Warrant 2	54	45.9
Mediterranean Hotels Bond A	72.5	0
Megason	57.5	0
Meimad	1250	54.3
Meir Ezra	1650	-2.9
Meir Ezra Bond B	265	0
Mel	998	0
Melleseron Bond B	96.5	0.5
Melleseron Warrant 3	37	0
Mendelson	270	8.9
Menolin	29	0
Menorah Ins. 5	7100	0
Mercazit	800	0
Mershav	115.1	0
Meytavit	195	0
Middle East Tube	247	-5
Middle East Tube Bond A	116.9	-0.1
Middle East Tube Warrant 2	9	0
Millenior Bond 7	142	0
Millenior Bond B	76.9	-0.1
Millomar Warrant 2	90	5.9
Millomor	1500	0
Milmstr	107	0
Mini Line	808	0
Minrav	12570	-0.1
Mirage	216	0
Mirage Bond A	140	0
Mirpat	60	0
Mishmeret	19	0
Mishmeret Bond B	58	0
Mishor Bond 2	175	0
Mishor Hahof	300	-1.3
Mivtani	180	0
Mivtach Shamir	2300	8
Mivtach Shamir	1229	0
Mizrahi Inv.	9620	-0.8
Mizrahi warrant 1	0	0
Mizrahi warrant 2	62.3	9
MM Engineering	106.8	0
MM Engineering Bond A	106.6	-33.4
Modgal	795	0
Modi'in	1.4	0
Moflet	187.9	-1.6
Moflet Convertible Bond AAA	258	0
Molell	852	-9.9
More Plastic Ind.	281	0
Moshkovitz	128.1	0
MTI Computers	380	0
Mul-T-Lock	605	0
Mula Senser	223	0
Nachshon Fund	41.8	-1.4
Naphtha	25	0
Naphtha Oil Exp.	30	0
Natour	456	-5
NATSVA BOND A	108.8	0
Navigator	221	0
Navigator Property	829	0
Nechushtan Bond B	67	0
Nechushtan Prop.	173.2	0
Nechushtan Properties Bond A	148	4.2
Nechushtan Warrant 1	29.2	0
Nehusha Ceramics	185	0
Nehushtan 1	558	0
Nehushtan 5	2680	0
Neot Aviv	9400	-8.8
Nesua	384	0
Neve Arbel	145	1
Nevion Hotels	364	0
Neviot	837	0
Nia	204	-0.5
Niluv	701	-0.1
Nisco	1646	-8.6
Nissan	218	-0.9
NMC	240	0
Noga	1666	7.5
Noga Inspreno	71.9	-4.1
Norden	11	0
Nordan Tech.	545	9.4
Norlolk	509	0
Norlolk Bond A	155	0.3
Nur	63	0
NYP	1078	0
Oceana	299	0
Ocll	7210	0.3
Ocl Bond A	194	0
Ocl Bond C	90.2	-0.3
Ocl Warrant 2	700	-27
Octova	450	0
Ofek	544	0
Ofer Bro	5940	0
Ofra	955	0
Ogden	81	0
Oheller	450	0
Oil Fields	1.3	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Old-Dok	225	4.7
Omni	253	0
Omritech	169	0
Ophir	350	0
Ophir Tours	449	0
Oppenheimer	88	0
Optima	148	0
Oranym	3320	-6.5
Orazil	500	0
Orazil Bond A	175	0
Orda	2760	0
Orda Bond 1	187	0
Orav	620	0
Oriell	124.3	0
Orlite	302	-1.6
Orlite Bond A	98	0
Orlite Warrant 2	56	0
Ormat Industries Bond D	136.9	0.2
Ormat Industries Warrant 5	36	-10
Ortal	400	8.7
Otzar Hashilton	26000	7.8
Oz	141.6	0
Oz elda	260	0.8
Packer Steel	5460	0.8
Patbugh	595	2.5
PAM	340	3
Panna	840	0
Pamas	1630	0
Pen Dor	265	0
Pardes	800	0
Pardes Bond A	94.6	-1.1
Passport	1788	0
Paz Chen	342	0
PCB	910	-1.1
Pdan Investment	48.5	0
Pereg	120	0
Perfolease	880	-0.6
Phoenix Ins. 5	28400	9.3
Plas Plast	300	0
Plist	122	0
Plnros	133	0
Plnros Bond A	147.5	0
Plskt	400	0
Plason bond a	102	0
Plason warrant 1	228	0
Plasto Sac	580	0
Plasto Shack Bond A	95	0
Plasto Shack Warrant 2	85	0
Poalim Inv. Bond B	98	-6.2
Poalim Inv. Warrant 3	910	0
Poalim Investments Bond A	141	-0.8
Polak	294	0
Polgat A	310	2.3
Polgat B 4	1240	0
Polygon	2980	9.8
Polygon Bond 2	244	0
Ponez	174.8	1.6
Port	115	9.5
Poseidon	93	0
Prl Hasmek	270	0
Prl Hasmek Bond A	41.5	0
Pridzker	186	8.4
Pritzker Bond A	154	0
Profit	395	-1.3
Profit Bond A	135.7	0
Python	503	0.8
Quality Cap Mkts	375	0
Rabinlax	238	0
Ram Zur	83.8	0
Ramgor 1	198	0
Ramgor 4	800	0
Rapak	2980	0
Rapak Bond A	185	-2.1
Rasco	1320	0
Ratio	1	0
Rav Car	85	0
Revad	188	0
RDC	998	0
RDC Bond A	151.9	0
Red Sea Hotels	814	2.9
Regency	119.5	0
Regency Bond 1	129.1	0.1
Regent	465	0
Regent Bond A	151	-0.3
Relish	425	0
Reshal	60	0
Reshel Bond B	125	0
Rimoni	780	0
Rogosin	1239	0
Rogozin Bond A	78	2
Rogozin Warrant B	154	0
Rosetech	430	0
Rosebud	69	-1.4
Rosental	100	0
Rotem	279	0
Rotshtein	140	0
Rotshtein Bond A	140	0
RSL	698	3.4
Sadot Mop Bond A	101	-0.2
Sagie Prop. Bond 1	29.3	0
Saher Bond a	100.1	5.4
Saher Dev.	2400	-7.7
Saher Securities	528	-2.5
Saher Warrant 1	265	0
Sanlecol	345	-1.7
Sano 1	2900	0

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TASE rises for 3rd day

Tel Aviv

Israel's benchmark stock index yesterday rose for a third day, led by Israel Chemicals and banks, as investors expressed hope that early elections could bring a stronger government that would act with more authority to bolster the slumping economy.

The Maof Index of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange's 25 largest companies rose 0.99 percent to 312.60, its highest since August 25, after gaining 2.61 percent on Monday.

Israel Chemicals rose 3.58 percent to NIS 4.05. Gmul Sahar Securities Ltd. raised its recommendation for the maker of chemical fertilizers to a "strong buy." Bank Hapoalim gained 1.42 percent to NIS 7.88. Israel's largest bank agreed to swap its stake in Clal Israel for one in Clal Insurance Enterprise Holdings in a NIS 370 million ($88.3 million) transaction that will give it a foothold in insurance and reduce its involvement in non-financial businesses, as required under terms of its sale by the government to private investors last year. Clal Insurance gained 0.81 percent to NIS 37.20.

Clal Israel gained 2.37 percent to NIS 99.50. Israel's second-largest holding company declared a NIS 400 million ($95.5 million), or NIS 12.82-a-share, interim dividend.

Nice Systems rose 2.29 percent to NIS 89.30. The digital voice-logging systems company's American depositary receipts rose 1 1/4 to 21 5/16 in New York as the technology-rich Nasdaq Composite Index climbed 2.5 percent.

Formula Systems rose 3.11 percent to 109.40. The software investment company's American depositary receipts rose 1 3/4 to 26 1/2 in New York.

Europe

European stocks rose for a second day, led by mobile phone makers after Ericsson AB won a $210 million contract, fuelling optimism industry profit will grow even as the world's economy slows.

The UK's FTSE 100 index closed lower for the first time in six sessions as the pre-Christmas rally ground to a halt amid a lacklustre performance on Wall Street. By the close, the benchmark index had fallen 33.2 points or 0.6 percent to 5,843.3.

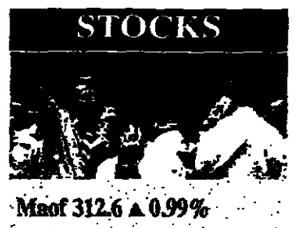
Axa SA, the world's biggest insurer, led insurance stocks higher on speculation that the introduction of the euro will prompt more takeovers in the industry.

The Bloomberg Europe 500 Index rose 0.61 point, or 0.3 percent, to 196.74. Six of the benchmark indexes in Europe's eight biggest stock markets rose.

"The industries that are going to do best in 1999 are the defensive ones with growth prospects, like telecoms," said Michel Faure, who manages $660 million at Chevrillon Philippe in Paris. Faure said he would maintain his overweight position in telecom stocks.

Ericsson led the Bloomberg telecommunications equipment maker index 2.6 percent higher, the biggest industry group gain in percentage point terms. The world's third-biggest maker of mobile phones rose 10 kronor to 189 after it said it won a two year contract worth $210 million from Mobtel, a Serbian mobile phone network operator.

"It was a nice order and good that Ericsson has more exposure in eastern Europe," said Stuart Jeffrey, an analyst at Daiwa Europe in London.



Maof 312.6 ▲ 0.99%
Dow Jones 9044.46 ▲ 0.6%
FTSE 5843.3 ▼ 0.6%
Nikkei 13779.45 ▼ 2.64%

Finland announced that it became the first developed country to see the number of mobile phone subscribers exceed fixed line subscribers. Of its 5.14 million people, 2.9 million, or 56 percent, had a mobile phone subscription in December, a level the Ministry of Transport and Communications expects will exceed 60 percent in the spring.

Asia

Japan's key stock index fell to a seven-week low as a plunge in bond prices threatened to reduce the value of banks' investment portfolios and raise interest rates for struggling corporate borrowers.

The Nikkei 225 index fell 373.50, or 2.6 percent, to 13,779.45 – its lowest close since October 30. Declines by Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd. and Sakura Bank Ltd. helped drag the Topix Banks Index down 3 percent on concern banks may record losses on bond investments. Higher bond yields may push up other long term interest rates, crimping lending and investment.

"Higher interest rates feel to a struggling economy like running a marathon would to a lung-cancer patient," said Kazuhiro Miyake, chief strategist at Nikko Research Center. "The market is facing a new set of risks."

(Bloomberg)

Wall Street

NEW YORK – Blue-chip stocks lifted the S-and-P 500 index to a second straight record yesterday, but the broad market was weighed down by profit-taking in the technology group and another dismal showing by smaller-company shares.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 55.61 points – or 0.6 percent – to 9,044.46, pushing its winning streak to four sessions and about 250 points.

The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index fell modestly after setting new highs on Friday and Monday.

The profit-taking in the technology sector was rather selective, however, with IBM rising sharply to lead the Dow's advance for a second straight day and Internet stocks putting on another fireworks display.

There was little reaction yesterday afternoon when Federal Reserve officials, as expected, concluded one of their periodic meetings without another cut in lending rates.

Blue-chip stocks have posted sizable gains in recent sessions despite a spate of profit warnings by leading companies, as well as Saturday's impeachment of President Bill Clinton and the US-led bombing of Iraq.

(AP)

Yen falls as Japanese bonds and stocks tumble

The dollar marked its biggest gain against the yen in six weeks yesterday as Japanese bonds plunged, pushing yields up and fueling concern rising interest rates will choke off a recovery in Japan.

"The cost of financing is going up across the board," said Bob Sinche, currency strategist at Citicorp Securities Inc. "The rise in bond yields and recent yen strength are contributing to weaker stock prices and negative views on where Japan is going to be next year."

In New York's midmorning trading, the dollar rose to 117.35 yen from 115.85 Monday, though it's still down 10 percent this year. It rose to 1.6755 marks from 1.6710 as a German report on inflation kept intact speculation that European interest rates may fall early next year. The dollar is down 6.8% against the mark this year.

The US currency also rose against the European currency unit, pushing the Ecu down to $1.1731 from $1.1752 Monday. The Ecu will be traded equally for the euro, the new single currency, in January.

Japanese stocks slumped, with the benchmark Nikkei 225 stock average falling 2.6% as plunging bond prices threatened to reduce the value of banks' investments and raise borrowing costs for companies and consumers.

"Higher interest rates feel to a struggling economy like running a marathon would to a lung-cancer patient," said Kazuhiro Miyake, the chief strategist at Nikko Research Center in Tokyo.

Japanese government bonds sank, with the yield on the benchmark No. 203 10-year bond recording its biggest ever one-day rise after the Ministry of Finance announced it will cease outright purchases of long-dated government bonds from January.



Dollar 4.1870 ▼ 0.1%
Basket 4.5873 ▼ 0.31%
Mark 2.5028 ▼ 0.58%
Sterling 7.0354 ▼ 0.27%

The government is trying to find cash to fund tax cuts and increase spending to help lift the economy out of its worst recession in 50 years.

Government measures may be insufficient to do that, the International Monetary Fund said yesterday. It forecast the economy will shrink 0.5% next year, down from the 0.5% growth it initially predicted.

To be sure, higher interest rates often indicate a strengthening economy and tend to draw investors to a country's financial assets. Presently, though, Japan hasn't shown any signs of emerging from its seven-year slump.

In September, by a quarter-point on each occasion, it's bid to preserve growth while the global economy stalled.

(Bloomberg)

Gold falls to lowest since September

Precious Metals

Gold for February delivery fell yesterday as much as $1.90, or 0.7 percent, to $288.30 an ounce on the Comex division on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the lowest since September 23. A rallying US equity markets and a strengthening dollar are luring investors from precious metals markets. Gold fell to a 19-year low at the end of August as tame inflation reduced the metal's value as a hedge.

Palladium for immediate delivery rose as much as $13.75, or 4.5%, to $322 an ounce in London amid expectations that Russia, the world's largest producer, won't export any metal for several months. Russia stopped shipping the metal, needed to make catalytic converters for cars and capacitors for mobile phones, in the first half of 1997 and the first quarter of 1998, causing prices to soar. Though shipments arrived unexpectedly last week, prices didn't drop below $300 an ounce as traders warned that more weren't guaranteed.

Oil

Brent crude oil futures for February delivery rose as much as 23 cents, or 2.4 percent, to $9.98 a barrel on the International Petroleum Exchange as refiners took advantage of prices close to record lows to buy supplies to ensure their factories will be well stocked through the holiday season and early next year.

The 10-year-old Brent crude oil contract fell Monday to a record low of $9.55 a barrel, making it more profitable for refiners to process crude oil into gasoline, diesel and other products, traders said.



Gold $287.55 ▼ 1.4%
Crude Oil $9.93 ▲ 0.18%
CRB 189.28 ▲ 1.0%

Others

Coffee for March delivery rose as much as $10, or 0.6 percent, to $1,770 (80.28 cents a pound) on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange. A cold front is expected to move from the US into Mexico by the end of this week, bringing temperatures as low as 46° Fahrenheit to coffee-growing districts, according to Strategic Weather Services, a Pennsylvania-based meteorology company. Such temperatures are unlikely to damage the crop, traders said.

While the arabica coffee produced in Mexico, the biggest exporter to the US, is not deliverable against futures contracts in London, damage to the country's harvest would reduce global supplies available to roasters.

Cocoa for March delivery gained as much as £11 to £915 a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange because of concern over slow exports from this year's crop in Ivory Coast, the world's No. 1 producer. Exporters say about 250,000 metric tons of cocoa due for shipment December 31 is still in Ivory Coast and may not be shipped in time to meet delivery obligations.

Local exporters are demanding government compensation for world prices at their lowest since March 1997. (Bloomberg)

US bonds fall as Japanese bond rout lifts yields

US bonds fell for a second day, marking their biggest two-day loss since early November, as Japanese bonds plunged and sent global interest rates higher.

"We're lower in synch. with the drop" in Japanese government bonds, said Charles Reinhard, analyst at ABN Amro Inc.

"The feeling is that there's going to be less overall demand for purchasing fixed-income securities."

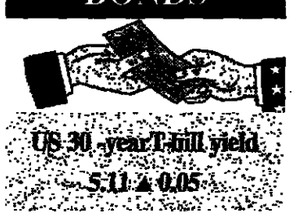
The 30-year bond fell 22/32, or $6.88 per $1,000 bond. It had been down as much as 1 3/32 earlier. The yield rose 5 basis points to 5.11 percent. Two-year note yields rose 5 basis points to 4.57 percent.

Japanese bonds plunged for a second day after the Finance Ministry said it will stop outright purchases of long-term Japanese government bonds in the secondary market. The selling added to losses from Monday, following the government's earlier announcement that it will double sales of new debt and slash purchases at auction.

Japan is pulling back from the market because it needs to finance 24 trillion yen ($210 billion) in tax cuts and spending, designed to breathe life into its economy.

"They're going to issue a ton of new fixed-income long-dated paper," which will sap demand from Treasuries, said Marc Frustaci, head of government bond trading at Daiwa Securities America Inc.

The benchmark No. 203 10-year bond fell 1606 yen per 50,000 yen bond, pushing its yield up 39 basis points to 1.895 percent, its biggest one-day rise. That's up from a record low of 0.695 percent on October 7.



US 30-year T-bill yield
5.11 ▲ 0.05

That pulled the US 10-year Treasury down 9/32, boosting its yield 4 basis points to 4.67 percent, its highest level since November 30.

European bonds also fell for a second day. The yield on the 10-year German bond, Europe's benchmark, rose 8 basis points to a three-week high of 3.94 percent.

The plunge in Japanese bonds hurt other markets, with banks leading the Nikkei down 373.50 points to 13,779.45, a seven-week low. The dollar rose against the yen, climbing as high as 117.47 yen from 115.85 in late New York trading Monday.

Meantime, traders say they're reluctant to buy Treasuries because signs of economic strength have quashed the chance that the Federal Reserve will lower interest rates. The most recent figures showed strength in trade, jobs and manufacturing.

A survey of the 31 primary dealers — the only firms that deal directly with the Fed's securities trading desk — found that none expect a reduction.

The Fed has already cut its target rate for overnight loans between banks — the federal funds rate — in three quarter-point steps on September 29, October 15, and November 17.

"The Fed's probably on hold, which means there's no incentive to buy Treasuries, at least for now," Daiwa's Frustaci said.

(Bloomberg)

	LAST	CHANGE*
Tenet Health	25	-1.125
Teradyne	39 75	-0 6875
Tesoro Pet	11.25	-0.6875
Tetrad	50.9375	-0.5625
Texas Instruments	86	-3.0625
Texas Utilities	46 6875	-1.0625
Textron	70.0625	+0.5625
Thiokol	-	-
Thomas & Betts	41.8125	-0.5625
ThreeCom	48.625	+1 5
Time Warner	89.4375	+1.1875
Times-Mirror	55 1875	+0.9375
Timken	18 0625	-0.3125
Torchmark	34.6875	+0.625
Toseo Corp	22	-0.1875
Toys R Us	16.3125	-0.4375
Transamerica	110.313	-0.4375
Transco Energy	64.75	-0 125
Travellers Grp	4.75	+0
Tribune	65.625	+1.25
Triton Energy	7.6875	-0.25
TWA	5.375	-0 1875
Tyco Intl Ltd	70 0625	+1.1875
Tyler	5	-0 125
UAL Corp	59 0625	-2.4375
USG Corp	49.125	-0.5625
UST Inc	35	+0.0625
USX Marathon	27.1875	-0.25
USX-US Steel	23.0625	-0 8125
Ultramar Diam	22.3125	+1
Unicom Corp	36.9375	-0.1875
Unilever PLC	44.375	+1.0625
Unilever NV	82.875	+1.5625
Union Camp	64	+0
Union Carbide	42.25	+1.625
Union Pacific	43.9375	+0.4375
Unisys Corp	33.25	-0 625
USAIR Group	50.8125	+0.0625
USF&G Corp	-	-
US Home	32.125	+0.5875
US Surgical	-	-
US Trust	65.625	-0.875
US West	62.5	-1.4375
United Tech	104.438	+0.1875
Unocal Corp	29.25	-1.0625
VF Corp	45.75	+1.5625
VMRX Pharmaceutic	1.09375	+0.03125
Valero Energy	19.188	-0.625
Varian Assoc	37 625	+1
Viacom Inc	70.375	+1.625
Vishay	13	-0.0625
Vulcan Materials	126	-1.3125
Wachovia	86.375	-0.875
Walgreen	58.875	+1.375
Wal-Mart Stores	78.1875	-0.4375
Warner-Lambert	72.9375	+1.125
Wash Gas Light	26.125	-0 125
Washington Mutu	-	-
Washington Post	541	-4.375
Waste Mgmnt Inc	43 4375	-0.0625
Watkins-Johnson	19.5	-0.25
Wells Markets	-	+0.0625
Wells Fargo	37.25	+1
Wendy's Intl	20.5	+0.0625
Westvaco	26.5625	-0.625
Weyerhaeuser	48.5	-1.0625
Whirlpool	51.875	-0.5625
Wrisman	22.5	-0 4375
Williams Co	30	+0.0625
Winn Dixie Stos	43.75	+2.125
Woodworth	8.8125	-0.1875
World Comm	59.875	-0.8125
Worthington Ind	12	+0.0625
Wrigley	88.75	+0 4375
Xerox	111.25	+0.25
Yahoo	245	-2.5
Yellow Freight	18.25	+0
Zero Co	-	-

	LAST	CHANGE*
Daimler-Benz	154.5	-0.5
Lufthansa	34.4	-0.6
Mannesmann	-	-
Metallgesellschaft	28.1	+0.05
Volkswagen	129.5	+3.1

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 22-DEC-98)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

	Last	Change
Sal (Basket) (1)	4.5873	0
U.S. Dollar (1)	4.187	0
British Pound (1)	7.0354	0
Deutsch Mark (1)	2.5028	0
French Franc (1)	0.7464	0
Japanese Yen (100)	3.5569	0
Swiss Franc (1)	3.0782	0
Canadian Dollar (1)	2.7029	0
Italian Lira (1000)	2.528	0
Jordanian Dinar (1)	5.8827	0

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	9044.46	+55.61
DJ Transport	3036.16	+10.54
DJ Utils	312.81	-1.55
DJ Comp	2823.84	+10.11
NYSE Indust	718.92	+4.03
NYSE Transport	459.7	+0.49
NYSE Comp	578.75	+1.05
S&P 100	596.22	+0.06
S&P Spot Index	1203.57	+0.73
Israel Index	280.22	-2.55

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	5843.3	-33.2
Tokyo Nikkei	13779.4	-373.5
Singapore all-share Index	385.92	+3
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index	10322.5	-73.5
Israel Index	280.22	-2.55
Paris CAC 40	3820.47	+17.06
DAX	4780.93	0
Madrid	841.92	+20.55
Swiss Market Index	7091.2	-78.2
Sydney	2759.8	+21.8
Union	1401.01	+22.52

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

	Last	Change
Pound: spot	1.6795	-0.0043
Mar.future (CME)	1.6756	-0.0036
D-mark: spot	1.6707	-0.0005
Mar.future (CME)	0.5009	-0
S-franc: spot	1.3632	+0.0037
Mar.future (CME)	0.74	-0.0017
Yen: spot	116 63	+0.92
Mar.future (CME)	0.008566	-3.4e-005
CanDlr: spot	1.5531	+0.0021
Mar.future (CME)	0.6443	-0.0008
AusDlr: spot	0.613	-0.0027
Mar.future (CME)	0.6132	-0 0033
F-franc: spot	5.604	-0.0015
It Lira: spot	1655	+0.2
Ntg: spot	1.8832	-0.0005
AusSchg: spot	11.7707	-0.0014
Rand: spot	5.925	+0.01
ECU: spot	1.1754	-0.0002

US COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Mar) (CEC)	1421	+28
Coffee (Mar) (CEC)	115.05	+0.6
Wheat (Mar) (CBOT)	276.75	-1.75
Soybean (Jan) (CBOT)	545.25	-4
Orange juice (Jan)(CEC)	103.5	0
Crude Oil (Mar)(NYMEX)	11.41	+0.06
Bonds Mar.future	12719	-30
S and P Mar.future	1217	+2.4

LONDON COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Mar) (LCE)	909	+5
Coffee (Mar) (LCE)	1773	+13
Sugar (Mar) (LCE)	234.3	-0.4
Brent crude oil (Mar)(IPE)	1014	+24

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

	Last	Change
Silver: spot	4.92	+0.01

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

	Last	Change
Gold (Feb)	289	-1.2
Silver (Mar)	4.918	+0.013
Platinum (Jan)	343.2	-0.8
Palladium (Mar)	310.9	-1
High-grade copper (Mar)	0.668	+0.0035

LONDON METAL FIXES

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	288.7	-1.25
Gold PM fix	287.25	+7.6
Silver fix	489	-6

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date (Spot market listings are from approximately 2330 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 22-DEC-98)

LONDON

Allied Domecq	553	+5.5
Allied Zurich	900	+1.5
BAT Inds	548	-18.5
BT	889.5	-17.5
BTR	122.25	-1.75
Barclays	1317	-20
Bass	856.5	+7.5
Boots	1040	+15.5
British Airways	379	-13.75
Comm Union plc	919	+1
Diageo	883	-4.5
General Electric	537.5	-18
Glaxo	2012	+12
HalSav	962	-12.5
HSBC (75p shs)	1848	-13
ICI	531.5	-6.5
Land Securities	772	-4.5
Lloyds Bank	876	-2
Marks & Spencer	406.5	+12.25
NatWest Bank	1176	-25
Prudential	932	-29.5
Reuters	852.5	-0.5
Sainsbury	479	+10.25
Shell Transport	370	-0.75
Tyco Intl	3950	-700
Unilever	657.5	+11.5
Zeneca	2624	-39

PARIS

Accor	1114	+27
Air Liquide	972	-38
Alcatel Alsthom	672	+15
Euro Disney	6.85	+0
Michelin B	230.4	-9.2
Moulinex	82	-2.25
Paribas	466.9	+8.9
Pernod Ricard	360	-2
Peugeot	523	-3
Saint Gobain	785	+7

FRANKFURT

Bayer	68.4	+0.5

Tel Aviv shares data supplied by Pacific Mediterranean Investments, Tel. 09-958-5873.All other data supplied by Commstock Trading Ltd., Tel. 02-624-4963.Due to technical failures data may be inaccurate.The Jerusalem Post will not be held responsible for the consequences of any transaction made on the basis of these data. Readers who wish to report missing or misquoted data should do so on postcards only, addressed to Jerusalem Post Business Desk, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000

Foreign financial data courtesy of
CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds
34 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem
Tel. 02-624-4963 Fax. 02-625-9515
http://www.commstock.co.il
E-mail: commstock@pobox.com

Pacific Mediterranean Capital Markets Group
- Stock broking
- Equity research
- Money management
- Corporate finance

Tel. : 972-9-9585877
Telefax : 972-9-9585896
E-Mail : meiras@trendline.co.il
Contact : Elan Levi

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.770	4.800	5.090
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.550	5.540	5.620
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.180	2.280	2.700
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.060	0.190	0.560
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (22.12.98)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	BANKNOTES Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	4.5510	4.6245	—	—	4.5873
U.S. dollar	4.1525	4.2195	4.08	4.28	4.1870
German mark	2.4840	2.5241	2.44	2.56	2.5028
Pound sterling	6.9776	7.0902	6.85	7.19	7.0354
French franc	0.7406	0.7526	0.72	0.77	0.7464
Japanese yen (100)	3.5509	3.6082	3.49	3.66	3.5692
Dutch florin	2.2045	2.2401	2.16	2.28	2.2213
Swiss franc	3.0542	3.1035	3.00	3.15	3.0782
Swedish krona	0.5182	0.5266	0.50	0.54	0.5228
Norwegian krone	0.5404	0.5492	0.53	0.56	0.5449
Danish krone	0.6528	0.6634	0.64	0.68	0.6580
Finnish mark	0.8169	0.8301	0.80	0.85	0.8234
Canadian dollar	2.6799	2.7232	2.63	2.77	2.7029
Australian dollar	2.5553	2.5966	2.51	2.64	2.5790
S. African rand	0.7038	0.7152	0.63	0.72	0.7085
Belgian franc (10)	1.2040	1.2235	1.18	1.25	1.2134
Austrian schilling (10)	3.5310	3.5880	3.47	3.64	3.5581
Italian lira (1000)	2.5063	2.5488	2.46	2.59	2.5280
Jordanian dinar	5.8362	5.9304	5.73	6.15	5.8827
Egyptian pound	—	—	1.18	1.28	1.2352
ECU	4.8778	4.9565	—	—	4.9164
Irish punt	6.1680	6.2675	6.06	6.36	6.2150
Spanish peseta (100)	2.9183	2.9654	2.86	3.01	2.9424

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Wednesday, December 23
EMERGENCY PHARMACIES
Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 9 Lalb Yaffe, 670-6660; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvirol, 546-2040; Superpharm, 40 Einstein, 641-3730.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Merkaz Golan, 198 Ahuza, Ra'anana, 774-5782.
Netanya: Kamiel, Kiryat Nordau Commercial Center, 865-6870.
Haifa: Super Pharm (Lev Hamifratz), 53 Ha'atzmaut, 051-582021; New Pharm, 40 Hanita, 052-331013.
Krayot area: Sabinia, 24 Hagefen, Kiryat Bialik, 873-5674.**Herzliya:** New Pharm, Belt Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 954-9903. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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Netanya: Laniado.

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FIRE 102
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Ashkelon 6651332	Nahariya* 9912333
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Beit Shemesh 9539133	Petah Tikva*
9311111	
Dan Region* 5793333	Rehovot* 9451333
Eilat* 6332444	Rishon* 9942333
Haifa* 8512233	Safed 6920333
Jerusalem* 6523133	Tel Aviv* 5460111
Karmiel* 9985444	Tiberias* 6792444

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Eran – Emotional First Aid – 1201, also Jerusalem 02-561-0303 (Arabic: 583-0301); Tel Aviv 03-546-1111 (children/youth 546-0739); Rishon Lezion 03-956-6681/2; Haifa 04-867-2222 (Arabic: 867-2226); Beersheba 07-649-4333; Netanya 09-862-5110; Karmiel 04-988-8770 (Arabic: 958-3444); Kfar Sava 09-767-4555; Hadera 06-634-6789; Nazareth (Arabic: 06-645-4222).
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Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977.
Hadassah Medical Organization – Israel Cancer Association support service, 02-624-7676.
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FA brass in dire need of an overhaul

London Calling



Mark Rivlin

It might be Christmas time, but there is certainly a shortage of wise men at the helm of English football. There is one token Wiseman – Keith, vice chairman of Southampton and chairman of the Football Association, until last week when he and chief executive Graham Kelly were unceremoniously dumped out of office following their decision to donate over £3 million to the Welsh FA in return for its backing for England's world Cup bid in 2006.

Kelly, a jovial figure who started as an office boy in the Football League and worked his way up the greasy football administrative ladder, resigned.

But Wiseman refused to walk and now faces a grilling from the FA Council in January.

The hearing will need large premises – the said council is 91-strong (or weak) – and the press have been busy wheeling out football veterans as an example of how antiquated the game is in this country. Kelly is the second senior figure in the past three years to resign over a financial irregularity and with the council heavily weighted in favor of county amateurs, the FA appears light years away from the slick Nineties-style corporate management structure required for the modern game.

English football is not just about World Cup bids – Portsmouth and Oxford United, where the Professional Footballers Association are having to lend the clubs money to pay wages, are examples of the state of play at the other end of the continuum.

And while the council are almost being forced to tow the line in saying they are prepared to modernize, there is no compromise at all on the issue of a powerful commissioner being brought in to kick a few backsides. You only have to look at whose behinds are on which seats at the FA Cup final or when England play at Wembley, to realize that there's too much for these functionaries to lose.

And they certainly will not lie down, despite the relentless barrage of criticism leveled against their ilk in the press this week. Sunday's *Observer* ran a lengthy interview with Duncan Bayley, 60-year-old secretary of the non-league Unibond League who boasts 27 years experience in the amateur game. "The idea that a gang of old duffers can influence the affairs of great big Premiership clubs is fiction," Bayley says.

The way things are going, it looks like the FA is becoming ripe for a takeover by the Premiership in the non-too-distant future. It's a bit like the cricket – we may have given the game to the rest of the world, but now we need to learn how the rest of the world is marketing it.

On the pitch, it was another home win for West Ham with Eyal Berkovic enjoying a return to the first team after a two-match lay-off through injury. Berkovic was chosen as the interviewee by the BBC for their Saturday night *Match of the Day* slot and it's nice to note that aside from his excellent form on the field, he is now able to converse reasonably fluently in English. A far cry from his early days at Southampton when *Yediot Aharanot* London sports correspondent Gassan Wakad would act as simultaneous translator.

On a more somber note, West Ham again hit the headlines for the wrong reason on Monday after two of their players Neil Ruddock and Trevor Sinclair were arrested following an incident at Secrets night club in Romford at the club's Christmas fancy dress party on Sunday. Hammers boss Harry Redknapp said he was going to "read the riot act" to the pair – presumably they did not go dressed as Peace Corps volunteers.

It's not often that minority sports such as wrestling and rugby league are given an airing, but for sheer nostalgia your correspondent could not let the untimely death two weeks ago of Giant Haystacks pass without comment.

One of the greats of modern British wrestling, Haystacks was the archetype bad guy on the ITV Saturday afternoon coverage made famous by the likes of Mick McManus, Jackie Pallo and Haystacks's foil, the legendary Big Daddy, the ring illuminated by commentator Kent Walton's descriptions of old ladies clobbering their heroes and villains with handbags.

Sixty-year-old Big Daddy (Shirley Crabtree), is fighting for his life after suffering a stroke on Sunday.

The showmanship and television demanded that falls and fights were rehearsed, but Haystacks, who admitted to a daily breakfast fare of 12 eggs and six bacon rashers, took enough real knocks to persuade the most cynical of observers that the sport was for real.

The British wrestling public now gets its kicks from WWF, but the glitz and high glam of the US version is lost on a discerning audience who would squeeze into venues like Rochdale town hall and work themselves into a hysterical frenzy.

And if you want an example of how British sport mirrors society consider one of the more bizarre fixtures of the past weekend – the Rugby League Silk Cut Challenge Cup second round tie between Wath Brow and London Skolars. The second round represents the final chance for amateur clubs to make it into the hat for the third-round draw, the stage where the professional teams join in.

Interestingly, the amateur code of rugby league has huge interest with hundreds of teams participating in minor leagues all over the country. And given the game's northern cloth-cap image as personified in the 1960s film *This Sporting Life*, it is somewhat surprising that London Skolars is a team made up almost exclusively of middle to upper class toffs from the docklands banking fraternity.

Not so long ago, most of these people would not have understood the rules of the league code – but these days, anything goes and the men with the snazzy suits and mobile phones lie a respectable sixth in the Second Division of the amateur National Conference League.

Wath Brow is an uncompromising place in deepest Cumbria with a hundred years of amateur rugby league tradition, a place synonymous with hardness and being tough. They had their work cut out to beat the Skolars 16-6.

Oklahoma wins by forfeit

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) – Oklahoma was on its way to an easy opening-round victory over the host school in the Puerto Rico Holiday Classic when things turned ugly.

Ramon Gomez of American University of Puerto Rico hit Oklahoma's Tim Heskett in the head with an elbow with 5:02 left in the first half and the 23rd-ranked Sooners leading 39-10 Monday.

Oklahoma coaches and players ran to Heskett, who was on the floor in front of American's bench. Some pushing and shoving started among coaches and players, and referee Eric Harmon ordered the floor cleared and declared the Sooners 2-0 winners over the Pirates by forfeit. "The coaches were about to get into it," Harmon said right after the game.

Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson said Heskett might have a concussion and is under the care of team physician Dr. Brock Schnebel.

No. 11 New Mexico 90
McNeese St. 46

Lamont Long went 5-for-5 from 3-point range and scored 28 points and Kenny Thomas added 22 points and 14 rebounds for the Lobos (8-0). Demond Mallet had 17 points for the visiting Cowboys (1-7), who shot 27.4 percent for the game.

No. 15 Michigan St. 79
Pepperdine 67

Morris Peterson had 18 points for the Spartans (7-3) in the opening round of the Pearl Harbor Classic in Hawaii. Mateen Cleaves, who scored all 16 of his points in the second half, and Charlie Bell, who had 14, helped Michigan State pull away after trailing 36-35 at halftime. Marc McDowell had 12 points on 6-of-7 shooting for the Waves (6-4).

No. 16 Clemson 72
South Carolina St. 47

Harold Jamison scored a season-high 19 points on 8-of-8 shooting and grabbed nine rebounds as the Tigers (10-1) won their seventh straight game.

Coray Davis led the visiting Bulldogs (4-5) with 11 points, all in the first half.

No. 6 Stanford 82
Elon College 58

After facing top teams such as North Carolina, Maryland and St. John's earlier this season, No. 6 Stanford was due for a letdown. Luckily for the Cardinal, it came against overmatched Elon College.

Kris Weems hit six 3-pointers and scored 20 points as Stanford, which hit 11 3-pointers overall, eased to victory.

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 20, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pv
1. Connecticut (64)	8-0	1,738	1
2. Duke (3)	10-1	1,640	2
3. Kentucky (2)	10-1	1,604	3
4. Cincinnati (1)	9-0	1,563	4
5. Maryland	11-1	1,485	5
6. Stanford	7-2	1,341	6
7. North Carolina	12-1	1,322	7
8. Arizona	6-0	1,226	8
9. Purdue	11-1	1,216	8
10. Indiana	11-2	1,060	10
11. New Mexico	7-0	996	11
12. UCLA	6-2	902	12
13. Kansas	8-2	868	13
14. St. John's	9-2	809	15
15. Michigan St.	6-3	783	14
16. Clemson	9-1	680	16
17. Minnesota	7-1	561	17
18. Auburn	11-0	510	19
19. Arkansas	8-2	346	20
20. Wisconsin	10-1	325	23
21. Iowa	8-1	262	25
22. Syracuse	7-3	241	21
23. Oklahoma	6-1	230	24
24. Pittsburgh	7-4	187	22
25. Oklahoma St.	6-3	164	18

Others receiving votes: Texas Christian 133, California 66, Florida63, Tennessee 58, Temple 53, Coll. of Charleston 34, Murray St. 34, Penn St.29, Toledo 29, Tulsa 26, Villanova 25, Mississippi St. 22, N. Carolina St. 12, Oregon 11, DePaul 10, Miami, Ohio 10, Southern Cal 10, SW Missouri St. 9, Washington 8, Creighton 6, Georgia Tech 6, Louisville 6, Rhode Island 6, Georgia 5, Xavier 5, Kansas St. 3, Utah 3, Wake Forest 3, Gonzaga 2, Miami 2, Colorado St. 1, South Florida 1.

Belgian soccer union settles row with Bosman

BRUSSELS (Reuters) – The Belgian soccer union said yesterday it agreed to pay former player Jean-Marc Bosman 16 million francs ($466,700) to end the legal conflict which sparked the so-called Bosman case on free movement of players.

Bosman, 34, welcomed the out-of-court settlement with the Belgian union and said he was now hoping to find a job again after years in the doldrums.

"We closed the book, we turned its last page and it ended well," Bosman told Reuters.

"I believe that both Jean-Marc Bosman and the union were fed up with this case, we were tired," Belgian union secretary general Jan Peeters told reporters at the union's headquarters.

"Now it's all over. We're satisfied," he said.

"Don't forget that we were facing the major challenge of Euro 2000 in which we have to put all our energy," he said, referring to the next European soccer championships which Belgium will jointly organize with the Netherlands.

Bosman was claiming damages before the appeals court in the southern Belgian city of Liege in the wake of the 1995 European Court of Justice's "Bosman" ruling ending soccer's transfer system and limits on foreign players.

Bosman's case started in 1990 when his club FC Liege blocked a transfer to France's Dunkirk and later suspended him.

Bosman took Liege, the Belgian soccer union and UEFA to court. The Liege appeals court then sought the Court of Justice's advice and still had to rule on the amount of damages.

Peeters said Bosman's claims totalled 72 million francs ($2.10 million) in damages from UEFA and the Belgian union, but Bosman had already urged the union to settle out of court.

Peeters said the Belgian union was footing the whole bill.

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Kung fu fighting with a twist

Martial arts enthusiasts hold country's 1st all-female seminar

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

It was a scene that could only have happened at a women's martial arts seminar.

After her mother, karate instructor Sara-Rivka Ernstoff finished nursing her, one-year-old Ariella took off on the exercise mat crawling around some 70 women martial arts enthusiasts who took part yesterday in Israel's first Women's Martial Arts Seminar held at Teddy Stadium in Jerusalem.

"This is a chance for us to get together for fun and camaraderie. It is a chance for us to really value ourselves," said Ernstoff, 41, who teaches an all-women karate class at the Jerusalem YMCA. "Older women like me can serve as role models for the younger women. With men, the dynamics are different."

The seminar, which was supported by the Sport Department of the Jerusalem Municipality, was the realization of a dream began this summer at a chance meeting between martial arts instructors Jamie Zimron, Jill Shames and Yehudit Sidikman at the United States National Women's Martial Arts Federation annual training camp. Now the women are hoping the seminar will grow into a larger movement of women in martial arts in Israel.

Women of all ages and from all walks of life participated in the seminar. They included religious and secular Israelis as well as two groups of young Palestinian girls from Bethlehem and eastern Jerusalem.

"In sports there is no difference between religions and nationalities, sports brings everyone together," said Abdallah Dandis of eastern Jerusalem who brought his karate class to the seminar. He and other men, however, were not permitted inside the classes out of respect for some of the religious women participants who will not wear pants in front of men. A woman translator came along to help the young Palestinian girls in the classes.



BEST FOOT FORWARD – A martial arts instructor demonstrates how to kick in front of her all-female class. (Debbie Hill)

Instruction was given in judo, karate, aikido, tae kwando, tai chi and a combination of the different styles. The younger girls enjoyed the judo games Sidikman taught them while the real die-hards sweated it out in Esti Shames's tae kwando class.

The martial arts world is very much male-dominated, said Zimron, so most teachers, role models and sparring partners are men and it is important for women involved in martial arts to be able get together and learn from each other.

"Our bodies are different and the way we find our power is different, not just from sheer muscle strength," she said. "We have more emotional sensibilities which have no room in male-dominated classes. This way we can find our power and really support ourselves."

She noted that in the US, women's involvement in martial arts grew as awareness of violence against women increased and she expects the same to happen in Israel. Right now, she said, about 20 percent of all martial arts participants in Israel are women.

For most of the participants in the seminar, the idea of being able to protect themselves was high on their list of reasons for studying martial arts.

"It gives me self-confidence and I know I can defend myself. I can rely on myself," said Olga Baikin, 18, from Jerusalem who has been studying tae kwando for eight years.

Atara Kahana, 15, from Gush Etzion, who has been studying judo for two years, said it was in her nature to want to feel strong.

"I am not afraid to walk in places I may have not walked in before," she said. She added that she likes the image of strength she projects to others. "It doesn't bother me if boys think I am masculine. I want them to see I have power, that they are not better than me."

But contrary to popular notions, martial arts is not just about beating people up, said karate student Amy Gelbart, 34, from Rehovot.

"We are here to learn from each other," she said. "I am looking for some kind of inner peace which comes at the higher levels."

Martial arts helps you become more self-confident, grounded and centered, added Zimron.

"Once you have learned the power of a unified mind/body/spirit, you can do anything well," she said. "It makes you a better whatever – a better artist, athlete, parent."

England reach new depths in Australia

LONDON (Reuters) – England's blundering cricketers plumbed new depths yesterday as they crashed to the most humiliating defeat so far of what is proving to be a disastrous tour of Australia.

The style of their spectacular collapse in Hobart left English manager and former opening batsman Graham Gooch almost speechless with embarrassment.

Even Australian hero Greg Blewett looked uncomfortable when asked to analyze the match which saw an Australian XI score a crushing victory.

Set a stiff 376 from 78 overs, the Australians, led by Blewett with an unbeaten 213, reached their unlikely target after just 55.2 overs, scoring at better than a run a ball at the Bellerive Oval.

"At least their bowlers got a good work out," Blewett said uneasily.

England's performance, which was variously described by cricket writers and television pundits as "staggeringly inept" and "the most one-sided passage of play ever seen," left Gooch seething.

"We didn't do anything very well," the tight-lipped manager said afterwards.

"Mike Atherton decided he wanted a game and that is fine...but obviously the declaration was a bit generous as it turned out."

Rather than the declaration being generous, England's lightweight attack and clumsy fielding gave the Australians this unexpected victory.

Atherton, who smashed 210 not out in England's first innings of 469-6 declared, declared his team's second innings closed at 199-3 after opener Mark Butcher had reached his century at 103.

But after an early breakthrough when Alex Tudor grabbed Matthew Elliott's wicket for just eight runs, it was all one-way traffic.

South Africa A- West Indies

Bad light condemned the four-day tour match between South Africa A and the West Indies to a dull draw in Pietermaritzburg.

Umpires made the offer of light to Floyd Reifer and Junior Murray two balls after the tea interval and the West Indians accepted it to put an end to a match which was essentially over as a contest when bad light and rain reduced the first two days' play to 83 overs in total.

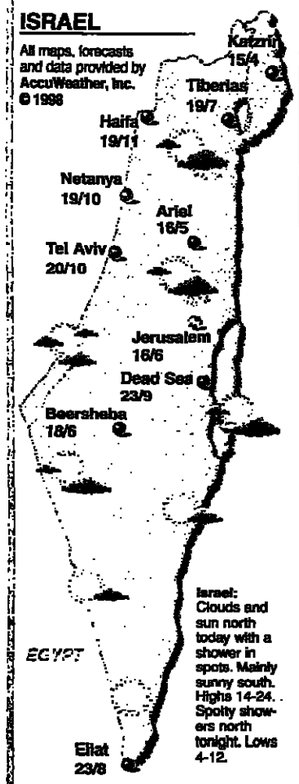
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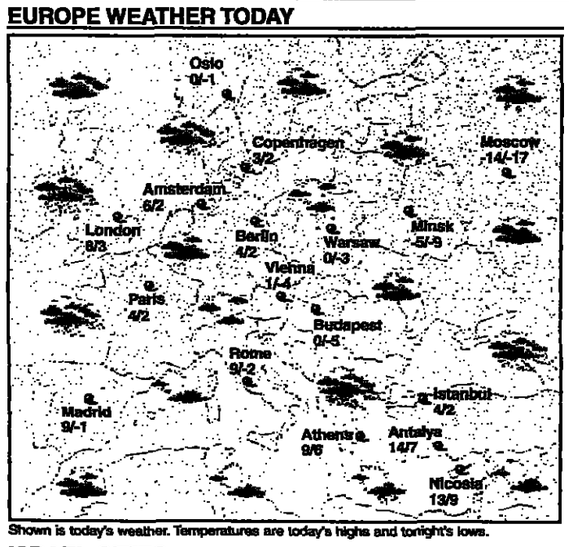
ISRAEL

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Israel: Clouds and sun north today with a shower in spots. Mainly sunny south. Highs 14-24. Spotty showers north tonight. Lows 4-12.

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Thursday High C/F	Thursday Low/W C/F	Friday High C/F	Friday Low/W C/F	Saturday High C/F	Saturday Low/W C/F
Ariel	16/61	5/41/s	16/61	5/41/s	16/61	5/41/pc	16/61	3/37/pc
Beersheba	18/64	6/43/s	18/64	8/46/s	18/64	8/46/pc	18/64	6/43/pc
Dead Sea	23/73	9/48/s	21/70	9/48/s	21/70	9/48/pc	21/70	11/52/pc
Eilat	23/73	8/46/s	23/73	10/50/s	21/70	8/46/pc	21/70	10/50/pc
Haifa	19/66	11/52/pc	19/66	11/52/c	19/66	9/48/pc	19/66	11/52/pc
Jerusalem	16/61	6/43/s	18/64	6/43/s	16/61	6/43/pc	16/61	4/39/pc
Katzrin	15/59	4/39/pc	15/59	4/39/pc	15/59	4/39/pc	15/59	2/35/pc
Netanya	19/66	10/50/s	19/66	10/50/pc	19/66	8/46/pc	19/66	10/50/pc
Tel Aviv	20/68	10/50/s	18/64	10/50/pc	18/64	10/50/pc	18/64	8/46/pc
Tiberias	19/66	7/44/pc	19/66	7/44/pc	19/66	7/44/pc	17/62	5/41/pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, f-ice.

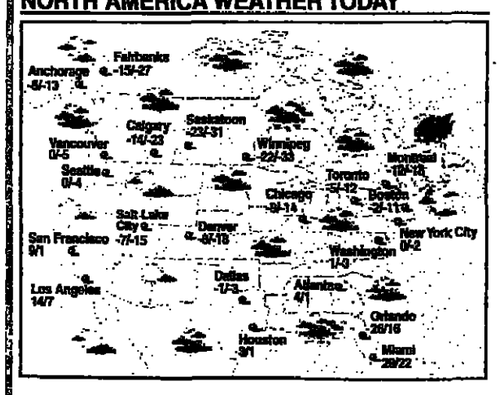
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INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Thursday High C/F	Thursday Low/W C/F	Friday High C/F	Friday Low/W C/F
Amsterdam	6/43	2/35/r	3/37	1/34/sn	9/48	4/39/s
Beijing	10/50	-2/29/s	11/52	1/34/s	8/46	-7/20/r
Berlin	4/39	2/35/c	3/37	-2/29/c	3/37	2/35/s
Brussels	5/41	2/35/r	3/37	1/34/sh	8/46	4/39/s
Cairo	19/66	7/44/s	19/66	8/46/s	19/66	11/52/pc
Chicago	-9/16	-14/7/pc	-4/25	-14/7/pc	-4/25	-11/13/c
Frankfurt	2/35	-1/31/c	2/35	-2/29/c	3/37	2/35/s
Hong Kong	25/77	19/66/s	23/73	17/62/s	22/71	17/62/pc
Johannesburg	26/79	14/57/c	26/79	16/61/pc	29/84	18/64/pc
London	8/46	3/37/r	3/37	2/35/pc	11/52	4/39/s
Los Angeles	14/57	7/44/s	17/62	3/37/pc	19/66	6/43/s
Madrid	9/48	-1/31/pc	7/44	-3/27/pc	8/46	0/32/s
México City	21/70	5/43/pc	21/70	7/44/pc	21/70	8/46/pc
Montreal	-12/11	-18/0/c	-12/11	-22/-7/pc	-13/9	-18/0/s
Moscow	-1/47	-17/2/pc	-1/47	-1/47/s	-5/22	-9/16/pc
New York	0/32	-2/29/pc	2/35	-4/25/pc	1/34	-4/25/s
Paris	4/39	2/35/c	3/37	-2/29/pc	6/43	2/35/s
Prague	0/32	-4/25/c	2/35	-3/27/pc	2/35	-1/31/s
Rio de Janeiro	31/88	24/75/t	27/80	22/71/pc	29/84	23/73/pc
Rome	9/48	-2/29/s	9/48	2/35/pc	9/48	2/35/r
Sydney	24/75	17/62/pc	24/75	19/66/c	29/79	22/71/s
Tokyo	13/55	7/44/pc	9/48	2/35/s	11/52	8/46/s
Toronto	-5/24	-12/11/sn	-7/20	-16/4/pc	-4/25	-6/16/pc
Vienna	1/34	-4/25/c	3/37	-2/29/pc	2/35	0/32/pc
Warsaw	0/32	-3/27/c	3/37	-2/29/pc	-1/31	-2/29/s
Washington	1/34	-3/27/pc	1/34	-4/25/pc	1/34	-3/27/c
Zurich	2/35	-2/29/pc	1/34	-4/25/sn	2/35	0/32/s

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



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Hasek earns league-best 17th win

GREENSBORO, North Carolina (AP) – Jason Woolley had a goal and two assists and Dominik Hasek made 19 saves to lead the Buffalo Sabres to a 4-1 win over the Carolina Hurricanes on Monday night.

Miroslav Satan and Michael Peca also scored for the Sabres, who won for the eighth time in their last 10 games.

Robert Kron scored for Carolina, which lost for only the second time in its last eight home games. Trevor Kidd made 29 saves after making 38 in the Hurricanes' 3-2 win at Buffalo on Saturday.

Buffalo improved to 14-0-0 when leading after two periods as Hasek earned his league-best 17th win.

Canadiens 2, Stars 2

Darryl Sydor's goal at 13:54 of the third period lifted the visiting Dallas Stars into a tie as the Canadiens equalled a 50-year-old team winless mark.

The Canadiens remained winless in December at 0-5-5 – equalling the club's 10-game winless streak from the 1947-48 season. The team record is 12 games without a win set in 1926 and equalled in 1935.

Sydor beat Jeff Hackett for his ninth goal as the Stars – first overall in the NHL with a 19-5-6 record – kept alive a nine-game unbeaten streak.

Benoit Brunet and Patrick Poulin scored in the second for Montreal (8-17-7) before Sergei Zubov responded with only 30 seconds left in the period.

Bruins 3, Lightning 2

Kyle McLaren scored twice and Hal Gill had the tie-breaking goal with 8:31 left in the third period as the host Boston Bruins won.

Boston improved to 8-1-2 at home against Tampa Bay.

Craig Janney and Vincent Lecavalier scored for the Lightning, who have the league's worst record (8-21-3) and dropped their 15th game in their last 18.

Rob Tallas, making his first start since November 24 and only his sixth this season for Boston, stopped 24 shots. Bill Ranford made 31 saves in the Tampa Bay net.

Maple Leafs 7, Penguins 1

Mats Sundin scored two goals and Alyn McCauley had a goal and two assists as host Toronto won.

The Maple Leafs, who lead the NHL with 105 goals, have scored 14 in the last two games with McCauley collecting seven points during that span.

Toronto goaltender Curtis Joseph made 30 saves as the Maple Leafs were outshot 31-27.

Avalanche 4, Mighty Ducks 2

Milan Hejduk scored the go-ahead goal for visiting Colorado and goaltender Craig Billington got the win despite playing less than two minutes and not facing a shot.



SHOOTING STAR – Dallas's Grant Marshall tries a wrap-around shot on Canadiens' goaltender Jeff Hackett. (Reuters)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	18	8	4	40	90	76
Philadelphia	14	9	8	36	86	70
Pittsburgh	13	9	7	33	83	80
N.Y. Rangers	11	13	7	29	84	86
N.Y. Islanders	12	19	1	25	79	93
Northeast Division						
Toronto	19	11	2	40	105	90
Buffalo	17	6	5	39	83	51
Boston	15	9	6	36	82	61
Ottawa	14	12	3	31	86	73
Montreal	8	17	7	23	70	92
Southeast Division						
Carolina	15	13	5	35	85	78
Florida	11	11	6	28	73	76
Washington	9	17	3	21	60	78
Tampa Bay	8	21	3	19	68	114

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	17	12	1	35	94	76
St. Louis	11	10	7	29	74	69
Nashville	11	16	3	25	70	93
Chicago	9	19	4	22	71	107
Northwest Division						
Colorado	14	14	3	31	75	78
Edmonton	14	15	3	31	88	84
Calgary	12	16	3	27	87	90
Vancouver	11	15	4	26	84	90
Pacific Division						
Dallas	19	5	6	44	89	62
Phoenix	18	5	4	40	78	49
Anaheim	12	12	7	31	75	73
San Jose	8	15	7	23	62	71
Los Angeles	9	20	3	21	70	91

Tampa Bay 1 1 0—2
Boston 0 1 2—3

First Period—1, Tampa Bay, Janney 4 (Cross, Lecavalier), 9:01 (pp). Second Period—2, Boston, McLaren 3 (Allison, Heinze), 5:10. 3, Tampa Bay, Lecavalier 5 (McBain), 10:12. Third Period—4, Boston, McLaren 4 (Bourque, Allison), 6:11 (pp). 5, Boston, Gill 2 (Kristitich, Allison), 11:29. Shots on goal—Tampa Bay 12-6-8—26. Boston 5-11-18—34. Goalies—Tampa Bay, Ranford. Boston, Tallas. A—14,228.

Dallas 0 1 1 0—2
Montreal 0 2 0 0—2

First Period—None. Second Period—1, Montreal, Brunet 10 (Quinal, Malakhov), 6:35. 2, Montreal, Poulin 4 (Rivet), 11:21. 3, Dallas, Zubov 4 (Modano), 19:30. Third Period—4, Dallas, Sydor 9, 13:54. Overtime—None. Shots on goal—Dallas 9-16-11-1—37. Montreal 10-11-6-2—29. Goalies—Dallas, Belfour. Montreal, Hackett. A—20,562.

Buffalo 2 1 1—4
Carolina 1 0 0—1

First Period—1, Buffalo, Satan 8 (Woolley, Groseki), 14:11 (pp). 2, Carolina, Kron 5 (Pratt, Primeau), 16:25. 3, Buffalo, Peca 8 (Woolley, Holzinger), 19:12 (pp). Second Period—4, Buffalo, Woolley 3 (Ward, Barnaby), 3:02. Third Period—5, Buffalo, Satan 9 (Brown), 19:38 (en). Shots on goal—Buffalo 11-15-7—33. Carolina 7-4-9—20. Goalies—Buffalo, Hasek. Carolina, Kidd. A—7,655.

Pittsburgh 1 0 0—1
Toronto 2 4 1—7

First Period—1, Pittsburgh, Hrdina 3 (Trivo), 6:04. 2, Toronto, McCauley 7 (D.King), 12:28. 3, Toronto, Sundin 11 (Thomas, Karpovtsev), 13:33. Second Period—4, Toronto, J.Smith 1 (McCauley, Eakins), 6:06. 5, Toronto, D.King 13 (McCauley, Kaberle), 9:20 (pp). 6, Toronto, Berezin 5 (Karpovtsev, Korolev), 10:56 (pp). 7, Toronto, Johnson 10 (Sundin, Yushkevich), 17:59 (sh). Third Period—8, Toronto, Sundin 12 (Modin, Thomas), 4:19. Shots on goal—Pittsburgh 10-13-8—31. Toronto 8-12-7—27. Goalies—Pittsburgh, Barrasso. Skudra. Toronto, Joseph. A—15,726.

Colorado 1 2 1—4
Anaheim 1 1 0—2

First Period—1, Colorado, Deadmarsh 9 (Kamensky, Miller), 10:59. 2, Anaheim, Selenne 13 (Kariya, Olausson), 13:17 (pp). Second Period—3, Anaheim, Green 7 (McInnis, Cullen), 3:29. 4, Colorado, Donovan 3 (C.Drury, Hejduk), 10:21. 5, Colorado, Hejduk 5 (C.Drury, Corbet), 19:10 (pp). Third Period—6, Colorado, Lemieux 9 (Kamensky, Deadmarsh), 12:07. Shots on goal—Colorado 12-12-9—33. Anaheim 13-8-8—29. Goalies—Colorado, Roy. Billington, Roy. Anaheim, Hebert. A—16,568.

Thirty-nine baseball players go 'free'

NEW YORK (AP) – Outfielders John Mabry, James Mouton and Darren Bragg were among 39 players who became free agents Monday when their teams failed to offer them 1999 contracts by the tender deadline.

All players on 40-man rosters must be offered contracts by the December 20 deadline or they immediately go free.

Meanwhile, as the baseball's focus began to shift from free agents to salary arbitration, the Toronto Blue Jays agreed to a $17 million, three-year contract with Joey Hamilton, obtained from the San Diego Padres during the winter meetings.

"I tried over the last couple of years to get something done with San Diego and they weren't very receptive," Hamilton said.

"It's like a big burden lifted off my back. I think being able to come here and get a fresh start is going to be really good for me."

Texas outfielder Tom Goodwin agreed to a $3.25 million, one-year contract and Mike Simms, another Rangers outfielder, agreed to a two-year deal worth $1,725,000.

Left-hander Buddy Groom agreed to a $850,000, one-year deal with Oakland and right-hander Gil Heredia agreed to a one-year contract with the Athletics.

Among free agents, Baltimore signed utility player Rich Amaral to a two-year contract and right-hander Ricky Bones to a one-year contract, and San Diego signed 36-year-old third baseman Dave Magadan to a one-year contract.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

CRITICS' CHOICE

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

The 13th Original Play Festival gets underway at the atmospheric Simta Theater in Old Jaffa. The plays reflect the often harsh reality of our lives here and take place in the theater's two spaces. Free events start nightly at 7:30 and 9:30. On the mainstage tonight: *The Postman Already Rang Twice* about the Americanization of Israel; tomorrow it's *Eastward* (*Mizruha*) about the iconization of mourning. Both shows at 8 and 10 p.m. In the upstairs theater tonight at 8:30 and 10:30: *Down Town* about unemployment and love, and tomorrow it's *Apple Pie* at 8:30 p.m. (Hebrew)



Moscu Alkalai (center) agonizes in 'Apple Pie' at the Simta Theater, Jaffa.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Andras Schiff presents masterclasses at the Tel Aviv University today through Friday (daily 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Choirs from India, the US, Europe and Israel perform tonight at 8:30 at the Sherover Theater in Jerusalem in "The World Sings Jerusalem," a special choral evening of classical and international folk music. The event is part of the Liturgica Festival.

The Ra'anana Symphonette Orchestra hosts the highly acclaimed Highland Park Strings chamber orchestra from Chicago in a series of concerts. The visiting musicians perform Bach's Third Brandenburg Concerto, Barber's Adagio for Strings, Mozart's K.136 Divertimento, and Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* with Nitai Zori, the Symphonette concertmaster, as soloist. Tonight at the new theater in Givatayim at 8:30, tomorrow in Ra'anana at 6 and 9, and Saturday at the Enav Center in Tel Aviv at 8:30.

RADIO

VOICE OF MUSIC

6:05 Mendelssohn: Piano Sonata in G minor op 105; Schumann: Piano Concerto op 54
7:07 Glazunov: Violin Concerto op 82; Brahms: Quintet no 1 op 88
8:05 Gneg: Piano Concerto; Kabalevsky: Piano Sonata no 2 op 45 (Horowitz)
9:05 Tchaikovsky: String Quartet no 1 op 11; Mendelssohn: Concerto in E for 2 Pianos and Orchestra; Beethoven: Piano Concerto no 3 op 37; Haydn: Symphony no 88 (Vienna PO / Bernstein); Brahms: Symphony no 2 op 73
12:00 Light Classical – works by Chopin and Tchaikovsky
13:00 Artist of the Week – Frank Peleg (30th anniversary of his death). Chopin: Variations on a Theme from Don Giovanni by Mozart for Piano and Orchestra op 2; Petrasi: Sonata for Harpsichord and 10 Instruments; Couperin: Harpsichord Suite no 5
14:06 Encore
15:00 Keys – works by Vladimir Lawitt (b. 1934)
16:00 Dvorak: String Quartet no 12 in F "American"; Schubert: Piano Sonata in G op 78; Beethoven: Violin Concerto op 61
18:00 Debussy: La fille aux cheveux de lin; Fauré: Sicilienne; Chaminade: Pastorale; Franck: Song; Schumann: Fantasiestück op 73 (Ostrakh / Zartzelova); Chopin: Fantasy in F minor op 49 (Rubinstein); Spohr: Piano Trio in E minor op 119; Borodin: String Quartet no 1 in A major
20:05 Mozart: Wind Serenade "Gran Partita" K361; Ravel: Sonata for Violin and Piano; Beethoven: Sonata no 9 for Violin and Piano "Kreutzer"; Poulenc: La Voix humaine – lyric tragedy in 1 act; Schumann: Trio no 1 op 63 (Zak / Pianka / Heled)
23:00 Golden Generation – Ernst Levy, piano / first program. Liszt: Sonata in B minor (recorded 1956); Liszt: 3 Pieces from Harmonies poétiques et réligieuses (1956)

RADIO WEST

CNN news on the hour followed by RadioWEST local news
6:00 Morning Drive with David Starck (until 9:00)
7:45 Sports Update
8:08 Lions Trust Financial Update
9:00 Morning Brunch with Sharon Wagner (until 12:00)
10:00 Head to Head with Charlie Levine and Dr. Tom Gumpel
12:00 Financial Forum with Mike Humphries
13:00 Memory Lane with Rebecca E.
14:00 M & M's Pick 'n' Mix
16:00 Afternoon Drive with Mike Reins (until 19:00)
17:45 Sports Update
19:00 Lonely Soul in Town – Dave Bender
21:00 Gesher presents "The Great Divide" – panel discussion
22:00 West RockLine with Mark Garson
1:00 Late Night Music

BBC WORLD SERVICE

6:00 The World Today
6:30 Insight
6:45 Off the Shelf: Christmastime at the End of the Road
7:00 The World Today
7:30 Outlook
7:55 Take Five B
8:00 The World Today
8:30 Sports International
9:00 World News
9:15 Off the Shelf: Christmastime at the End of the Road
9:30 Meridian (Live)
10:00 World News
10:10 Pause For Thought
10:15 Westway
10:30 Everywoman
11:00 World News
11:05 World Business Report
11:15 The Farming World
11:30 Britain Now
11:45 Sports Roundup
12:00 Newsdesk
12:30 One Planet
13:00 Newsdesk
13:30 Sports International
14:00 World News
14:05 World Business Report
14:15 Britain Today
14:30 Global Wildlife
14:45 Sports Roundup
15:00 Newshour
16:00 World News
16:05 Outlook
16:30 Megamix
17:00 World News
17:05 Sports Roundup
17:15 Performance
17:30 Everywoman
18:00 World News
18:15 From Our Own Correspondent
18:30 Insight
18:45 Britain Today
19:00 Europe Today
19:30 World Business Report
19:45 Sports Roundup
20:00 Newsdesk
20:30 The Works
21:00 News Summary
21:01 Outlook
21:30 Pause for Thought
21:33 Multitrack: X-Press
22:00 Newshour
23:00 World News
23:05 World Business Report
23:15 Britain Today
23:30 On Screen
00:00 Newsdesk

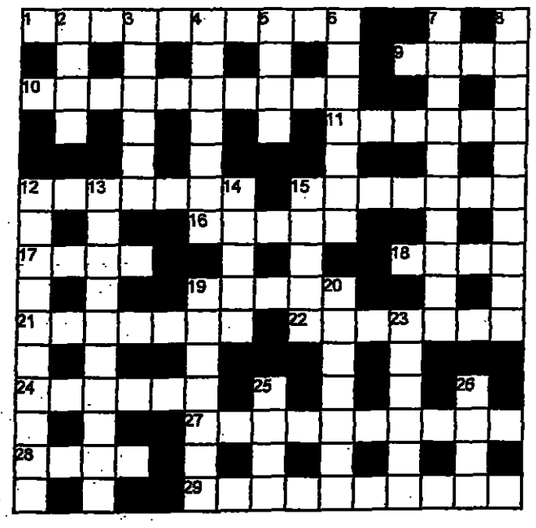
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

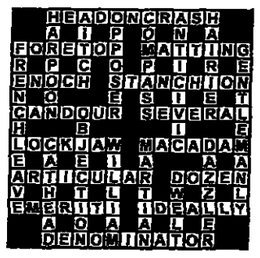
1 He carried out reforms involving beer and petrol (6,4)
9 A way the old can show complaint (4)
10 Hunt for a drink? Just the opposite (7-3)
11 Klaus seen going round a foreign capital (6)
12 No current source of light (7)
15 A tug in a storm in the West Indies (7)
16 At festive occasions a journalist is treated (5)
17 As a result a work unit gains nothing (4)
18 I'm going round in reverse in car (4)
19 No banker would credit it (5)
21 Colonist gets letters sent out (7)
22 No thug's broken arm (7)
24 It holds wine for a service in church (6)
27 Red Admiral flutters on the football field (4,6)
28 Bringer of love and life? (4)
29 Sewer join takes strain (10)

DOWN

2 Picks a spot for recreation (4)
3 With the organ study over, got paid employment (6)
4 Affected with slight insanity (7)
5 Produce a work of art from scratch (4)
6 Country boy holds a map (7)
7 Taking another person's life in one's hands (10)
8 Compensation required for port area in ruins (10)
12 Tasty dish, or picture of one? (10)
13 The late shift? (10)
14 Straighten robes, like a judge (5)
15 In a way age is some protection (5)
19 Abandons wastelands (7)
20 It doesn't normally contain mother's ruin (7)
23 One who cares is easily hurt (6)
25 Mountain ash? (4)
26 A failure as a teacher (4)

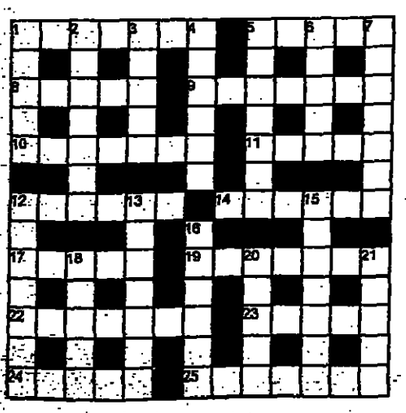


SOLUTIONS



Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Messy, 4 Alnwick, 8 Scanner, 9 Happy, 10 Sahni, 11 Dawdled, 12 Noel, 15 Design, 17 Thread, 20 Thou, 22 Glencoe, 24 Night, 26 Altar, 27 Throw in, 28 Terrier, 29 Dirge. DOWN: 1 Misused, 2 Small, 3 Yanking, 4 Abrade, 5 Nohow, 6 Impulse, 7 Keyed, 12 Alto, 14 Onto, 18 Shelter, 19 Hundred, 19 Detente, 21 Hector, 22 Graft, 23 Corgi, 25 Gower.



QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Gyrated (7)	1 Thin biscuit (5)
5 Roman harvest goddess (5)	2 Slope (7)
8 Aspect (5)	3 Supple (5)
9 Titular (7)	4 Indicate (6)
10 Clothing (7)	5 Console (7)
11 Fat (5)	6 Scope (5)
12 Cut teeth (6)	7 Prominent (7)
14 Thoroughfare (6)	12 Idea (7)
17 Different (5)	13 Hastened (7)
19 Daydream (7)	15 Serious (7)
22 Vexing (7)	16 Economical (6)
23 Female relative (5)	18 Bisect (5)
24 Step (5)	20 Poison (5)
25 Restricted (7)	21 Edit (5)

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TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

ARABIC PROGRAMS
6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV
8:00 Oriental Studies
8:30 Family Album
9:00 Guitar for Beginners
9:30 Communication: The Human Imperative
10:00 For the very young
11:00 Mathematics
12:00 Zehu Zeh
12:20 Sciences
13:30 Hanni's Room
14:30 Basketball Super League
15:25 Hanni's Room

CHANNEL 1 (11)
16:30 Hoppa Hey
16:58 A New Evening
17:35 Marked Places
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Family Matters
19:00 News in Arabic

HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 The Simpsons – the much-lauded cartoon family returns for a new season
20:00 News
20:10 Nowhere Man
21:00 News
21:30 One on One
22:05 Fragile Heart – new three-part British drama starring Nigel Hawthorne about a charismatic surgeon who finds himself challenged by a painful moral awakening which threatens to upset the pattern of his whole life
23:00 Good Luck – weekly chat show hosted by Ehud Manor about success stories
23:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2 (22)
5:45 Today's programs
5:55 Song of the Day
6:00 Rupert Bear
6:30 Choco Tel-Ad
6:43 Coffee Tel-Ad
9:00 Third Time
9:55 Storytellers' Festival
10:45 Thirty Something
11:45 Promised Land
12:30 Amazing Stones
13:00 News in Our Eyes
13:30 Ghost Writer
14:00 Home and Away
14:30 Tick Tack
15:00 Disney Time
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Street Corner
17:00 Five with Gadi Sukenik
17:21 Sport TV
17:46 Soccer: Israel vs. Argentina – live broadcast from Ramat Gan
20:00 News
20:30 Ramat Aviv Gimmel
21:15 Fact with Ilana Dayan
22:05 Avraham and Ya'acov
23:25 Short at Midnight
00:00 News
00:05 The X-Files
1:00 M*A*S*H
1:30 Christmas Mass
2:30 Song for the Day

JORDAN TV (31) (unconfirmed)
15:00 Holy Koran
15:10 Teddy the Bear
15:30 Beyond the Galaxy
16:00 French program
16:30 Crystal Maze
17:00 Subways
18:00 Bugby Spirit
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 French series
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Keep Quiet
20:00 From Our Special Reporter
20:30 Kung Fu
21:15 Science and Technology
21:30 Faces and Places
22:00 News in English
22:30 Chicago Hope
23:15 Fatal Bug
00:00 Hit Parade

MIDDLE EAST TV (24/27) (unconfirmed)
7:00 Keeping Fit
7:30 700 Club
8:00 TV Shopping
15:00 Beethoven
15:30 The White Fang
16:00 Woody Woodpecker
17:00 700 Club
17:30 Arabic World News
18:00 CNN World of Entertainment
18:30 Coach
19:00 Wiseguy
20:00 Policeman
20:00 English League Soccer
23:00 Late Show with David Letterman
23:35 CNN World of Entertainment
00:00 TV Shopping
2:00 700 Club

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)
16:00 Animation
16:30 Dictator
17:30 Panorama
18:00 Life Goes On – Egyptian series (Arabic)
19:00 News in Arabic
20:00 Doctors Talk
20:30 Is It Legal?
21:00 News
21:30 Scent of Mint
23:00 Cruises to a World of Discovery

ETV 2 (23)
15:30 Geometry
16:00 Fairy Tales
17:00 Short Story Festival
17:40 Color Garden
18:00 Pique Nique
18:30 Cooking with Capriel
19:00 Oriental Studies
19:30 Vis-a-Vis
20:00 New Evening
20:30 Tastes
20:55 Little Big Country
21:00 Six Voices Home – documentary about six homeless New Yorkers who compose songs based on their experiences of drug abuse and violence – screened as part of the Fight Against Drugs Week
22:00 In the Heat of the Night
22:45 And Baby Makes Three – documentary about a couple of drug addicts expecting their first child, and their attempt to break the habit

CHANNEL 3
7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines (rpt)
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas (rpt)
8:00 Celeste
9:00 One Life to Live (rpt)
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)
10:30 Days of Our Lives
11:15 Angels Don't Cry (rpt)
12:00 Barnaby Jones
12:45 Dallas
13:30 Newsradio
14:00 Bewitched
14:25 I Dream of Jeannie
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:35 Judge Judy
16:00 Angels Don't Cry
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 Frasier
18:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Melrose Place
20:25 La Femme Nikita
21:10 Mad About You
21:35 Veronica's Closet
22:00 Yair Lapid Live at 10
22:30 Seinfeld (rpt)
23:00 Ricki Lake (rpt)
23:45 Good Evening with Guy Pines (rpt)
00:15 Larry Sanders Show
00:45 Silk Stalkings
1:35 North of 60

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)
11:30 An Element of Truth (1995) – a beautiful young con artist tries to pull off a sting operation in an investment brokerage firm but finds herself a pawn in a greater game. With Donna Mills
13:05 Men of Chance (1932) – melodrama about gambling and love at the racetracks. With Ricardo Cortez, Mary Astor and John Halliday
14:15 Missing Parents (1993) – short comedy about a high-school student whose parents decide to leave him
14:50 Time Warriors 5: Journey to the Magic Cavern (1985) – in his fifth adventure, Josh helps the mushroom people fight off a monster and battles it out with his nemesis, Dr. Zoetrope
16:30 Leave of Absence (1994) – a staid and happily married architect finds himself falling in love with an attractive rival. With Brian Dennehy, Jacqueline Bisset, Blythe Danner and Polly Bergen
18:00 New in the Cinema
18:15 Last Resort (1986) – seven delinquents are sent to a survival course in the wilderness where they learn to appreciate themselves and friendship. With Dean Stockwell, Justin Walker and Seidy Lopez
19:50 Sunstroke (Hebrew, 1984) –four friends' last days of freedom before enlisting in the army. With Anat Atzmon and Yuval Banai
21:10 Sentinel
22:00 Red Steel (1995) – a federal agent tracks the murderer of a fellow agent and infiltrates the Mafia. With James Irwin and David Svensson
23:30 First Light (1995) – a top-notch commando is sent to rescue the daughter of a CIA chief from the clutches of a Middle Eastern terrorist organization. With Michael Paré, Janis Lee, Uri Gavriel, Amos Lavi and Sasson Gabai
1:10 Almost Dead (1994) – a successful psychiatrist thinks she may be going mad when she seems to meet her dead mother. With Shannon Doherty
2:40 Midnight Heat (1995, 94 mins.) – A man discovers following an accident that he had formerly been a martial artist and that his memory had been erased. With Brian Bosworth

CHILDREN (6)
6:30 Cartoons
8:05 Simba, Jungle King
8:50 Snorks
9:05 Mozart and the Gang
9:30 The Smurfs
10:05 Ninja Turtles
10:35 Superman
10:55 Peter Pan and the Pirates
11:35 Ned's Newt
12:00 Bandana Brenda
12:30 Pigasso's Place
12:55 Nils Holgersen
13:35 Simba, Jungle King
14:05 The Little Bits
14:30 Arthur
15:05 The Smurfs
15:30 Ninja Turtles
16:05 Superman
16:35 Peter Pan and the Pirates
17:05 Cow and Chicken

PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	6	8
19:30	The Simpsons		Melrose Place	Sunstroke	Family Matters	Decisive Weapons
20:00	News	News			Married with Children	Future Quest
20:30	Nowhere Man	Ramat Aviv Gimmel	La Femme Nikita		Fresh Prince of Bel Air	The Next Step
21:00	News	Fact with Ilana dayan	Mad About You	Sentinel	Full House	Stephen Hawking's Universe
21:30	One on One		Veronica's Closet		Party of Five	
22:00	Fragile Heart	Avraham and Ya'acov	Yair Lapid Live at 10	Red Steel	As Is	Aeroplane Dance
22:30			Seinfeld			
23:00	Good Luck		Ricki Lake			Life in the Wild

17:30 Flipper
18:10 The Magnet
18:20 The One
18:30 Crazy
19:00 Moesha – reruns
19:30 Family Matters
19:55 Married with Children
20:20 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
20:45 Full House
21:10 Party of Five

SECOND SHOWING (6)
22:00 As Is (1985) – portrait of a homosexual couple in New York and how AIDS affects them and their loved ones. Based on a play by William M. Hoffman. With Robert Carradine
23:45 Veuve Couderc (French, 1971, 85 mins.) – adaptation of Georges Simenon's novel. A proud widow in the 1930s countryside hires a young man to help on her farm. With Simone Signoret and Alain Delon

CHANNEL 8
6:00 Open University (rpts from Tuesday at 23:30)
8:00 Meerkats Divided (rpt)
8:30 Beyond 2000 (rpt)
9:00 The Dying Rooms
9:40 Puccini: Madame Butterfly – opera (rpt)
12:10 Lost Lakes of the Pacific
12:40 Life in the Wild (rpt)
13:05 Decisive Weapons
13:35 Future Quest: All in the Global Family (rpt)
14:00 The Next Step (rpt)
14:25 Stephen Hawking's Universe, part 5 (rpt)
15:15 Sleep Disorders
16:10 Cousteau: Danube III
17:00 Open University: Sales Management
18:00 Open University: Drama, Play, Performance
19:00 Life in the Wild
19:30 Decisive Weapons
20:00 Future Quest: Motion Control
20:30 The Next Step
21:00 Stephen Hawking's Universe, part 6
21:50 Aeroplane Dance – a bomber exploded over New Guinea in 1941 and affected local tribes
22:50 Life in the Wild
23:20 Open University: Hollywood Stuntmakers; Karel Appel; Government By Consent; Universe, Infinite Frontiers

STAR WORLD (18/15)
6:00 The Pretender
7:00 Oprah Winfrey Show
8:00 Sama Barbara
9:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
9:30 Swiftly Seasoned
10:00 Snowy River, The McGregor Saga
11:00 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures
11:30 Small Wonder
12:00 The Brittas Empire
12:30 World News
13:00 Asia News & World Business Report
13:30 Home Improvement
14:00 Space Island One
15:00 CI5, the New Professionals
16:00 Murder Call
17:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
17:30 Home Improvement
18:00 Space Island One
19:00 CI5, the New Professionals
20:00 Murder Call
21:00 Home Improvement
21:30 Newhart
22:00 The Brittas Empire
22:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
23:00 The Wonder Years
23:30 Mr. Belvedere
00:00 Aerobics Oz Style
00:30 World News
1:00 Home Improvement
1:30 Candid Camera
2:00 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventure
2:30 The Brittas Empire

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC (19)
6:00 Volga: Soul of Russia
7:00 CNBC
13:00 Australia's Animal Mysteries (rpt)
14:00 Owls, Kestrels and Roads (rpt)
14:30 Wolverines and Oil
15:00 Stratosfear (rpt)
15:30 Race for the Pole
16:00 Tribal Warriors: Amazon Warrior (rpt)
17:00 Secrets of the Snow Geese (rpt)
18:00 Volga: Soul of Russia
19:00 Australia's Animal Mysteries (rpt)
20:00 Rocky Mountain Beaver Pond
20:30 Zonman and the Cormorant's Egg – cormorant fishing on China's lakes and rivers
21:00 Flight Across the World: aviation aficionados
21:30 Searching for Extraterrestrials
22:00 Clan of the Crocodile – saltwater crocodiles in Papua New Guinea
22:30 Give Sharks a Chance – in the Great Barrier Reef
23:00 The Power of Water
00:00 Red Sea Rift – coral reefs in our region
1:00 Islands in the Sky – the search for the elusive black tree kangaroo of Papua New Guinea
2:00 Rocky Mountain Beaver Pond – all about the beaver
2:30 Zonman and the Cormorant's Egg – cormorant fishing in China

BBC WORLD (13/14)
News on the hour
6:30 USA Direct (rpt)
7:30 World Review '98 (rpt)
8:30 Holiday (rpt)
9:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
10:30 World Review '98
11:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
12:30 The Big Catch: Nile Perch (rpt)
13:00 The World Today
14:30 Wild World: Call of the Kakadu, part 2
15:00 World News and Business Report
15:30 The World Today
16:30 The Net (rpt)
17:30 Hard Talk
18:30 Mastermind India
19:30 Holiday (rpt)
20:00 The World Today
21:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
22:30 World Review '98
23:05 World News and Business Report
23:30 Top Gear
00:10 Europe Direct
1:30 World Business Report
1:45 Asia Today (rpt)
2:30 Holiday (rpt)

CNN INTERNATIONAL (12)
News through the day
6:35 American Edition
8:30 World Report
7:05 CNN This Morning
7:30 Insight
8:00 CNN This Morning
8:30 Moneyline (rpt)
9:00 CNN This Morning
9:30 World Sports
10:00 CNN This Morning
10:30 Showbiz Today
11:00 Larry King (rpt)
12:30 World Sport
13:30 American Edition
13:45 World Report: As They See It
14:30 Business Unusual
15:15 News and Business Asia
16:30 Showbiz Today
17:30 World Sport
18:30 Style!
19:00 Larry King Live (rpt)
20:45 American Edition
21:30 World Business Today
22:30 Q&A with Fiz Khan
23:00 News Europe
23:30 Insight
00:00 World Business Today
00:30 World Sport
1:00 World View
1:30 Moneyline Newshour
2:30 Showbiz Today

SKY NEWS (14/13)
News on the hour
6:30 CBS Evening News
7:30 Special Report
8:00 Sunrise
13:30 Sky World News
16:30 Question Time Prime Minister
18:30 Sky World News
19:00 Live at Five
21:30 Sportline
22:30 Sky Business Report
23:30 Sky World News
00:00 Prime Time
2:30 CBS Evening News

CHANNEL 5 (05)
6:30 Bodies in Motion
16:00 Bodies in Motion
16:30 College Basketball
17:45 German League Soccer
18:30 National League Soccer
19:30 Sports News
20:00 European Champions Soccer
22:00 French League Soccer
23:30 Volleyball

EUROSPORT (15/16)
9:30 Xtrem Sports (rpt)
11:30 Olympic Games
13:00 World Cup Legends
14:00 Truck Sports
15:00 Strongest Man
16:00 World Club Cup (rpt)
18:00 Sumo
19:00 Karting
20:00 Stock Car
21:00 Live Darts
23:00 Boxing
00:00 Strongest Man
1:00 Soccer – World Cup

MOVIES

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE The Big Chill 5 • I Hired A Contract Killer 7 • The King of Masks 9 • Rock Cinema: Bruce Springsteen 9:30
G.G. GIL *Jerusalem Mall (Malha)* ☎ 6788448 Ronin 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Small Soldiers 4:45, 7:15 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Big Lebowski 10 • ANTZ 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Saving Private Ryan 6, 9:30 • Grease 4:45 • The Truman Show 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Sliding Doors 7:15, 10 • Paulie 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:45 **JERUSALEM THEATER** Washington Square 7 • Character *(Dutch, Hebrew subtitles)* 9:30 **RAV CHEN 1-7** ☎ 6792799 Credit Card Reservations ☎ 6794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot Rounders 5, 7:15, 9:45 Holy Man 9:45 • There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Studio 54 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Life is Beautiful—Snake Eyes—Next Stop Wonderland 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Ever After 5, 7:30 • **MEVASSERET ZION G.G. GIL** ☎ 5700888 The Truman Show7:15, 10 • Saving Private Ryan 9:30 • Parent Trap 4:45 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 4:45, 7:15
SMADAR 5618168 Girls Evening 5, 7:30, 10

TEL AVIV
DIZENGOFF Sliding Doors 11 a.m., 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10 • Washington Square 11 a.m., 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10 • Character *(Dutch, Hebrew subtitles)* 11 a.m., 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10 **GAT** ☎6967888 Life is Beautiful 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 **GLOBUS** ☎6081300/1 Ronin—The Negotiator 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • ANTZ—The Truman Show 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • Small Soldiers 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30 • The Big Lebowski 7:30, 10 • Saving Private Ryan 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 6, 9:30 • Grease 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 • Paulie 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 **G.G. HOD 1-4** ☎ 5226228 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. Ronin 5, 7:30, 10 • The Big Lebowski 5, 7:30, 10 • Saving Private Ryan 6, 9:30 • The Perfect Murder 5, 7:30, 10 **LEV** ☎5288288 Girls' Evening 11 a.m., 1:45, 5, 7:45, 9:45 • The Dream Life of Angels 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:45, 7:30, 10 • Hana-Bi 11:15 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Sweet Hereafter 12, 10 • Night Train 7:30 • Superboy 1:30 a.m., 5 **LEV AVIV** ☎6417148 Girls Evening 5, 7:30, 10 • The Dream Life of Angels 5, 7:30, 10 • Nights of Cabiria 9:30 • Sweet Hereafter 10 • Hana-Bi 5, 7:30, 9:45 • A Price Above Rubies 5, 7:30 • A Polish Bride 7:30 • Superboy 5 **LIMOR** ☎6968084 Shall We Dance 5:30 • Armageddon 1, 7:30 • As Good As It Gets 9:45 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m., 4 **G.G. PE'ER** ☎5442141 ANTZ 5, 7:30, 10 • The Truman Show 5, 7:30, 10 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Saving Private Ryan 6, 9:30 • The Gingerbread Man 5, 7:30, 10 **RAV-CHEN** ☎ 5262288 Dizengoff Circle Rounders 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Studio 54—Snake Eyes—Halloween: H20 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Ever After 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Holy Man 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 **RAV-OR 1-5** ☎ 5102674 Opera House There's Something About Mary 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Henry Fool 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Next Stop Wonderland—Tango 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Il Ciclone 5, 7:30 **TEL AVIV MUSEUM** Claire Dolan 5, 8, 10

HAIFA
CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI ☎8325755 King of Masks 7:15 • The Perfect Murder 9:30 • The Big Lebowski 7:15, 9:30 **CINEMATHEQUE** ☎8383424 Carne Tremula 7 • Hamlet Goes Business 9:30 **MORIAH** ☎8242477 Washington Square 7:15, 9:30 **ORI** ☎8500056 Ronin 4:45, 7:15, 10 • ANTZ 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Small Soldiers 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Truman Show 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Saving Private Ryan 6, 9:30 • Sliding Doors 7:15, 10 • Paulie *(Hebrew dialogue)* 4:45 **PANORAMA** ☎8382020 The Negotiator 4:15, 7, 9:30 • Character *(Dutch, Hebrew subtitles)* 4:30, 7:15, 9:30 • Sliding Doors 7, 9:30 • Small Soldiers 11 a.m., 4:30, 7 • The Borrowers—Paulie *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m. **RAV-CHEN** ☎8500055 Holy Man—There's Something About Mary 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 • Wrongfully Accused 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Halloween: H20 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Studio 54 5, 7:15, 9:30 **RAV-GAT 1-2** ☎ 8674311 Rounders 7, 9:30 • Snake Eyes 7:15, 9:30 **RAV-MOR 1-7** ☎ 8416898 Rounders 4:45, 7, 9:30 • Life is Beautiful 4:45, 7, 9:30 • Snake Eyes 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Studio 54 7:15, 9:30 • Holy Man 4:30, 7, 9:30 • There's Something About Mary 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Ever After 4:30, 7, 9:30 • **RAV-OR 1-3** ☎ 8246553 Next Stop Wonderland 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Life is Beautiful 4:45, 7, 9:30 • Ever After F4:45, 7, 9:30

AFULA
RAV CHEN Holy Man 7, 9:15 • There's Something About Mary 7, 9:30 • Saving Private Ryan 8, 9:15

ARAD
STAR ☎9950904 There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Ever After 5, 7:30 • The Truman Show 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Snake Eyes 9:45

ARIEL
Saving Private Ryan 9 • Pippi Longstocking *(Hebrew dialogue)* 6

ASHDOD
G.G. GIL ☎ 8647202 Ronin 5, 7:30, 10 • ANTZ 5, 7:30, 10 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Small Soldiers 11:30 a.m., 5, 7, 7:15 • Saving Private Ryan 9:30 • Sliding Doors 5, 7:30, 10 **ORI** ☎8588073 Grease 5, 7:30, 10 • The Truman Show 5, 7:30, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎8681120 Rounders 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Ever After—Holy Man—There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Life is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Studio 54 5, 7:30, 9:45

ASHKELON
G.G. GIL ☎ 6729977 Ronin 5, 7:30, 10 • Small Soldiers 5, 7:30 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 • ANTZ 5, 7:30, 10 • The Truman Show 10 • Sliding Doors 5, 7:30, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎6711221 Rounders 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Holy Man 9:45 • There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Studio 54 7:30, 9:45 • Life is Beutiful 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Ever After 5, 7:30

BAT YAM
RAV CHEN ☎5531077 Roimders 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Ronin 5, 7:15, 9:45 • ANTZ 5 • The Negotiator 4:15, 7, 9:45 • There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Holy Man 9:45 • Snake Eyes 9:45 • Studio 54 7:30, 9:45 • Small Soldiers—Ever After 5, 7:30

BEERSHEBA
G.G. ORI ☎6103111 Ronin 5, 7:30, 10 • Small Soldiers 5 • ANTZ F5, 7:30, 10 • Sliding Doors 7:30, 10 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 **RAV-NEGEV 1-4** ☎6235278 Rounders 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Holy Man 9:45 • Ever After 5, 7:30 • There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Life is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 9:45

EILAT
EILAT CINEMA Ever After—Holy Man—There's Something About Mary 7:30, 10 **GIL** ☎6340182 ANTZ 5, 7:30, 10 • The Truman Show 10 • Small Soldiers 5, 7:30 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10

HADERA
LEV ☎6343555 There's Something About Mary 7:30, 10 • ANTZ 7:30, 10 • Holy Man 7:30 • Ever After 7:30, 10 • Snake Eyes Wed, 10

HERZLIYA
COLONY ☎6902666 Next Stop Wonderland 6, 8, 10 • Life is Beautiful 5:30, 7:30, 10 **DANIEL** ☎ 9544044 Girls Evening 5, 7:30, 9:30 **STAR** ☎ 9589068 ANTZ 7:30, 10 • There's Something About Mary 7:30, 10 • Studio 54 7:30, 10 **HOD HASHARON**
GIL ☎ 7408581 There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 10 • Small Soldiers 5, 7:30 • The Negotiators 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Sliding Doors 10 • Snake Eyes 10

HOLON
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KARMIEL
CINEMA ☎9882521 Holy Man—There's Something About Mary 7, 9:30 •
KFAR SAVA
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KIRYAT BIALIK
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NAHARIYA
G.G. GIL Ronin—ANTZ 5, 7:30, 10 • There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 10 • Ever After 5, 7:30 • The Truman Show 10 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10
UPPER NAZARETH
G.G GIL ☎6561332 Ever After 4:30, 7 • Saving Private Ryan 9:30 • Wrongfully Accused—Parent Trap 11:30 a.m. • Holy Man—Ronin 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Big Lebowski—The Truman Show 4:30, 7, 9:30 • There's Something About Mary 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Negotiator 4:15, 7, 10
NESS ZIONA
G.G. GIL 1-4 ☎ 9404729 Ronin—Washington Square 5, 7:30, 10 • ANTZ 5, 7:30, 10 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Paulie—Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m.
NETANYA
G.G. GIL 1-5 ☎ 8628452 Ronin 5, 7:30, 10 • ANTZ 5, 7:30, 10 • Small Soldiers 5, 7:30 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Truman Show 10 • Sliding Doors 5, 7:30, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎

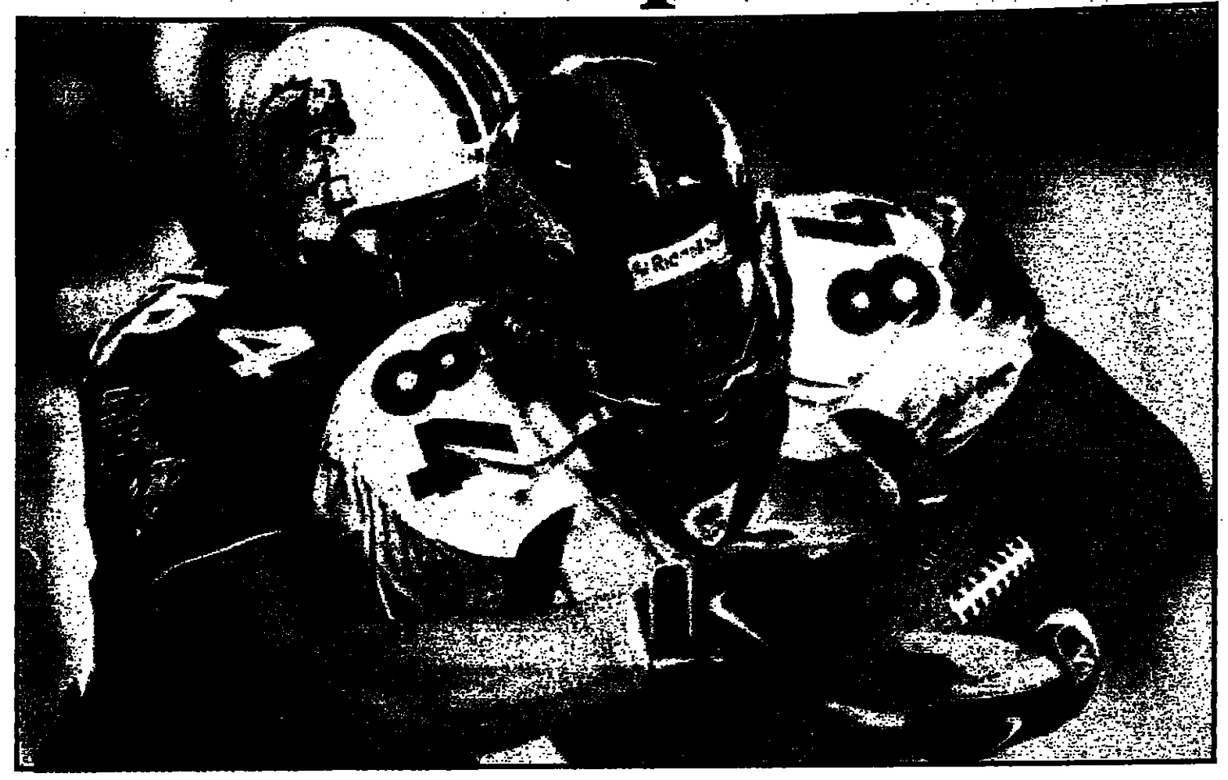
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Sports Editors Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Marino takes Dolphins to playoffs



WRAPPED UP – Denver Broncos' tight-end Shannon Sharpe is grabbed by Miami Dolphins' linebacker Zach Thomas. (Reuters)

MIAMI (Reuters) – Dan Marino reverted to his 1985 form by throwing four touchdown passes to lead the Miami Dolphins into the playoffs with a 31-21 victory over the suddenly vulnerable Denver Broncos on Monday.

The win moved Miami to 10-5 and allowed them to clinch the last AFC playoff berth. The win eliminated the Tennessee Oilers, who lost 30-22 to the Green Bay Packers on Sunday.

Marino flashed the brilliance that has etched his name atop nearly every quarterbacking record. He threw four touchdowns in a game for an NFL-record 21st time and found Lamar Thomas for three of those scores.

Marino completed 23-of-38 passes for 355 yards. It was his second straight 300-yard game and the 59th of his career – also an NFL record. The TDs were his most since November 27th, 1994, when he threw four scoring passes to Mark Ingram.

Coach Jimmy Johnson, who directed the Dolphins to their second straight playoff berth, guided the team just 24 hours after the death of his mother.

"My young men made this right for me. I came late to the park, but I tried to leave my mother out of it. Working the game was the best thing for me and the team."

Denver	3	10	0	8	21
Miami	0	7	14	10	31

First Quarter: Den—FG Elam 52, 5:51. Second Quarter: Den—R.Smith fumble recovery in end zone (Elam kick), 7:56. Mia—L.Thomas 9 pass from Marino (Mare kick), :54. Den—FG Elam 44, 0:00. Third Quarter: Mia—L.Thomas 56 pass from Marino (Mare kick), 10:26. Mia—L.Thomas 17 pass from Marino (Mare kick), 5:53. Fourth Quarter: Mia—Gadsden 8 pass from Marino (Mare kick), 8:15. Den—Hebron 95 kickoff return (McCaffrey pass from Brister), 7:57. Mia—FG Mare 42, 1:10. A—74,363.

Just two weeks ago, this appeared to be the game of the year as Denver opened the season with 13 straight victories.

But last week, the New York Giants assured the 1972 Miami Dolphins would remain the NFL's lone unbeaten team by upending the Broncos.

Denver quarterback John Elway, who joined Marino as one of six quarterbacks taken in the first round of the 1983 draft, was just 13-of-36 for 151 yards and two interceptions. In the second half, he was just 6-of-20 for 61 yards.

"It wasn't about Dan Marino versus John Elway," Marino said. "We had to win tonight to make the playoffs. Thomas was terrific. Two of his three TD catches were great athleticism. I felt good all night. We had no running at all so I had to be good."

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
y-N.Y. Jets	11	4	0	.733	385	256
x-Miami	10	5	0	.667	385	227
x-New England	9	6	0	.600	327	298
x-Buffalo	9	6	0	.600	355	300
Indianapolis	3	12	0	.200	291	417
Central						
y-Jacksonville	10	5	0	.667	371	335
Tennessee	8	7	0	.533	314	294
Pittsburgh	7	8	0	.467	260	282
Baltimore	5	10	0	.333	250	325
Cincinnati	3	12	0	.200	268	417
West						
y-Denver	13	2	0	.867	473	288
Oakland	8	7	0	.533	264	325
Seattle	8	7	0	.533	351	282
Kansas City	6	9	0	.400	296	339
San Diego	5	10	0	.333	228	326

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
y-Dallas	9	6	0	.600	358	268
Arizona	8	7	0	.533	309	365
N.Y. Giants	7	8	0	.467	267	299
Washington	6	9	0	.400	312	398
Philadelphia	3	12	0	.200	151	324
Central						
y-Minnesota	14	1	0	.933	530	280
x-Green Bay	10	5	0	.667	392	306
Tampa Bay	7	8	0	.467	279	295
Detroit	5	10	0	.333	296	359
Chicago	4	11	0	.267	263	352
West						
y-Atlanta	13	2	0	.867	484	273
x-San Francisco	11	4	0	.733	441	309
New Orleans	6	9	0	.400	272	314
St. Louis	4	11	0	.267	266	340
Carolina	3	12	0	.200	309	394

x-clinched playoff berth y-clinched division title

Clemens stays with Blue Jays

SPRING, Texas (AP) – Roger Clemens withdrew his trade demand yesterday, saying he was prepared to report to spring training with the Toronto Blue Jays in February.

Clemens, the only five-time Cy Young Award winner, had told the Blue Jays on December 2 to trade him to a team closer to home or to a contender, citing an agreement he made with then-team president Paul Beeston in December 1996.

Hamilton signs with Toronto, Page 18

Scharf: Yugoslav friendly good practice for Cyprus match

By OFER RONEN-ABELS

Israel face tough opposition this afternoon as they host Yugoslavia for a friendly match at Ramat Gan's national stadium as they continue preparations for the 2000 European championship (kickoff at 17:50; live on Channel 2).

Yugoslavia, whose campaign was delayed by the political situation in Kosovo, have three points from their single game after battling hard to a 1-0 victory over the Republic of Ireland in Belgrade where they played their opening European championship qualifying match last month.

The Yugoslavs will be without several key players who decided to drop out of the trip to Israel, such as Real Madrid's striker Predrag Mijatovic, who is the scorer of their only goal of the campaign.

But Real Sociedad's Darko Kovacevic, who scored two goals on Sunday to beat Haim Revivo's Celta Vigo 2-0 in the Spanish league, is here, as is Charlton Athletic's keeper Sasa Ilic. Ilic will give cover to Porto's Ivaca Kralj, Yugoslavia's first choice keeper.

Savo Milosevic, who played at Villa Park before moving to Spanish side Saragossa, looks certain to play alongside AC Milan's Dejan Savicevic and Lazio's Dejan Stankovic in what looks like a terrifying trio for the Israeli defenders.

Milosevic told reporters yesterday that he has played against West Ham's Eyal Berkovic in the Premeirship and also knows all about Revivo from their Spanish encounters, so he is aware of the Israelis' capabilities.

Yugoslav coach Milan Zivadinovic said both teams play a similar type of game, adding that it should be a very good friendly.

Coach Shlomo Scharf shared that opinion.

"Fans should fill up the stadium just like they do in England, Germany and Holland for friendly games, as today they will have the opportunity to watch some of the best footballers in Europe," he told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Scharf will use this friendly as preparation for Israel's qualifier against Cyprus on March 27th. He noted that: "Two of the Cypriots' best players, (Milenko Spoljaric and Sinica Gogic) are former Yugoslavs so it should be a good test."

Israel have an almost full strength squad, although Bresica's Tal Banin and Avi Nimni will be missing, the former due to injury, the latter to flu. Hapoel Haifa's Oren Zeituni and Maccabi Haifa's Yossi Benayoun will fill in for them.

Maccabi Haifa's Nir Davidovic looks certain to retain the No. 1 jersey while team-mate Arik Benado looks like losing his place in the starting line-up to Betar Jerusalem's Amir Shelah. Hapoel Haifa's skipper Ran Ben-Shimon will keep his place at the center of the Israeli defense while Najuan Grayev and Alon Harazi complete the back four as the two rivals from Haifa occupy the full-back positions.

Betar's striker Nir Sivilia, whose impressive league form earned him a call-up to the National side, might come on as a substitute as well as Grasshoppers Zurich's Avi Tikva who earned good reviews in Switzerland.

Berkovic and Revivo also arrived and are certain to attract the most attention, even though Borssaspor's Ronen Harazi will probably take the place of Haifa's Alon Mizrahi upfront. Hapoel Petah Tikva's Wallid Badier and Betar's Yossi Abuksis will fight for 11th place up the center of midfield.

In other news, Mizrahi has attracted the interest of French Second Division side Nice.

Maccabi Haifa's president Yaacov Shahar yesterday received a fax from the French club saying that they want the services of the Israeli marksman immediately. Shahar responded by saying that he has no intention of giving up his prized asset. Such a move, Shahar believes, would jeopardize Haifa's European and domestic aspirations.

Leeds' Molenaar out for season

LEEDS (AP) – Leeds United's Dutch defender Robert Molenaar will be out of action for the rest of the season after suffering a serious knee injury against Arsenal on Sunday.

Molenaar suffered damage to his cruciate knee ligaments when he was tackled by Arsenal striker Nicolas Anelka during Leeds' 3-1 loss at Highbury.

A scan yesterday revealed the extent of the damage and Leeds expects Molenaar to be out of action for at least eight months.

The Dutch star is the second Leeds defender to be put out of action with the same injury.

Austrian international Martin Hiden twisted his knee at Old Trafford in Leeds 3-2 loss to Manchester United three weeks ago and will be out for several months.

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